

Politician 'too political' for Pride show
KRON-TV says no way to Tom Ammann
co-anchoring its annual parade broadcast.
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Out in the neighborhood
Visiting British cops learn
from Castro counterparts.
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Teen wasteland
'15' explores gang
culture in Singapore.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

New plan for gay marriage bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

Despite the defeat last week of his pro-gay marriage bill in the Assembly, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) said the measure is not dead yet this year.

"It is not the final inning. So we did not prevail last week but we are not defeated," Leno told the Bay Area Reporter this week.



Mark Leno

At the urging of gay activists and the support of his fellow LGBT lawmakers, Leno said he intends to revise the measure in the state Senate. Under a process called "gut and amend," Leno is planning to insert into a bill already passed by the Assembly and awaiting approval by the Senate language that would redefine the definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman to a union between two persons.

Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, mirrored Leno's sports analogy appraisal of where the debate on same-sex marriage stands after last week.

"I think we're at halftime and we are taking the halftime break to strategize and focus and make a decision on how to move forward in consultation with the author and other members of the LGBT caucus," said Kors. "I think it is very premature to say that the legislation is dead for this year."

LGBT activist Robert Haaland circulated a letter in support of the gut and amend approach among gay leaders this week titled "No time for complacency" [see page 7]. Noting how close the vote was, Haaland urged the community to keep the issue alive, and not back down in the face of what he termed "a minor setback."

In an interview, Haaland said, "Our community needs to come together and push this across the finish line."

At its monthly dinner meeting Monday, June 6, the LGBT Legislative Caucus gave Leno the go-ahead to proceed with the legislative maneuver. The openly gay lawmaker is now ensuring he has the needed votes to pass the bill out of the Senate and send it back to the Assembly.

"I believe our caucus has fully embraced the importance of moving forward," he said. "There is due diligence to be done and we are very closely reviewing the level of senatorial support."

The LGBT caucus's commitment

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Supremes rule against medical pot; state law remains in effect

by Liz Highleyman

The U.S. Supreme Court issued its long-awaited ruling in the *Gonzalez v. Raich* medical marijuana case Monday, June 6.

In a 6-3 decision, the justices overturned a 9th Circuit Court ruling that the federal government may not interfere with patients using cannabis for medicinal purposes in states with medical marijuana laws; California and nine other states currently have such laws on the books.

"The Controlled Substances Act is a valid exercise of federal power," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the court's majority, "even as applied to the troubling facts of this case." Patients use medical cannabis for indications such as controlling nausea associated with chemotherapy, stimulating appetite to combat wasting, and relieving chronic pain. Medical marijuana advocates expressed disappointment at the decision, though most were not surprised.



Angel Raich speaks at a medical marijuana rally last month in Washington.

"This is a dark day," said Valerie Corral of the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana in Santa Cruz, weary after attending to a WAMM member who died before dawn the

same morning. "Citizens in America have to cloak in secrecy their acts of compassion," WAMM, which provides medical cannabis for free mostly to terminally ill patients, held a demonstration in downtown Santa Cruz Tuesday evening to protest the decision.

Medical cannabis supporters stressed that the high court ruling does not invalidate state medical marijuana laws. "[P]eople shouldn't panic," California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said Monday. "[S]tate and federal laws are no different today than they were yesterday."

Background

Monday's decision stems from an October 2002 lawsuit by Angel McClary Raich of Oakland and Diane Monson of Oroville, Raich, who suffers from an inoperable brain tumor, scoliosis, wasting, and several other ailments, is unable to tolerate most prescription drugs and is too ill to grow cannabis,

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49ers pledge more attention to diversity in wake of tape fiasco

by Cynthia Laird

Shocked by the fallout over the raunchy training tape that disparaged Mayor Gavin Newsom, gay marriage, and Asian Americans, members of the San Francisco 49ers top management apologized and pledged to overhaul the team's diversity training program at a community meeting Saturday, June 4 at the LGBT Community Center.

More than 50 community members attended the two-hour meeting, and seven staff members from the 49ers were present, including former public relations head Kirk Reynolds, who made the now infamous 15-minute tape, and team owner Dr. John York.

Ed Goines, team vice president and general counsel, announced that a new diversity council would be created with the full support of York and his wife, team owner Denise DeBartolo York. That announcement was preceded by an emotional apology from Reynolds, who read a prepared statement and



San Francisco 49ers brass before the start of a community meeting Saturday. From left: Kirk Reynolds, former public relations director; Dr. John York, owner; and Ed Goines, vice president and general counsel.

then hurriedly left the meeting for a previous commitment.

"I appreciate the opportunity to be here to tell each and every one of you how sorry I am," Reynolds said. "I've never been through anything remotely like this. This is such a contradiction to who I am."

Reynolds said that he's always prided himself on helping people and said he made the tape in part because of his fear of public

speaking.

"I went entirely too far in trying to keep the players' attention," he said.


Reynolds said he was close with former 49ers trainer Lindsay McLean, who came out as gay after his retirement.

"He talked about coming out — that he'd kept a secret for a long time. We did a couple of interviews in national publications and with local reporters and something I'll never forget through that time, we learned of things that happened in the locker room that were truly not good," Reynolds said.

As he left the meeting, Reynolds told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he had submitted his resignation last week, and that it was effective immediately.

The training tape, shown to players last August or September before the start of the 2004 season, features Reynolds in the role of mayor as he takes the team on a tour of the diversity that makes up San Francisco. Reynolds stops by a local adult theater, where

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Araujo retrial under way

by Zak Szymanski

The prosecution's star witness in the Gwen Araujo retrial took the stand this week at the Hayward Hall of Justice to describe how his group of friends befriended the East Bay transgender teenager in 2002, and ultimately, killed her upon realizing she was biologically male.

Araujo, 17, was born as a boy named Eddie but lived as a woman since the age of 14. She met Nabors, along with Jose Merel, Michael Magidson, and Jason Cazares, over the summer of 2002 and quickly became a part of a group that regularly partied at the Merel home in the East Bay city of Newark.

Both Magidson and Merel reportedly engaged in sexual relations with Araujo, but questions about Araujo's gender were present early on, Nabors said. On October 2, 2002, the men decided to confront Araujo, and the series of events that followed included forcibly revealing Araujo's genitals, responding to the discovery of male genitalia with extreme physical violence, and then driving her body to bury it in the Sierra foothills.

This is the second trial for Araujo's accused murderers — Cazares, Magidson, and Merel, all 25. The men face first-degree murder charges with a hate crime enhancement. Nabors was originally charged with the crime but pleaded guilty to manslaughter in exchange for his testimony. A mis-



Defendant Michael Magidson during opening statements last week.

trial was declared in the case last year when the jury deadlocked on whether the crime was first-degree murder. Defense attorneys have used a "gay panic" strategy to argue that their clients' reactions to Araujo's biological sex were motivated by the heat of passion rather than with premeditation.

There are some subtle but significant changes to this year's trial. Nabors is noticeably more humble in his demeanor, a shift from

what many had described as a "cocky" attitude in the past. Defense attorney Tony Serra — who represents Cazares — now has a gay assistant with him whom he reportedly referenced frequently to potential jurors during the selection process. Additionally, all three defendants reportedly will testify this year. Last year, only Cazares — who claims he tried to help Araujo and only assisted his friends

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Police back off dry policy for Pink Saturday

by Matthew S. Bajko

After telling community groups last month it wanted to enforce a no drinking policy during this year's Pink Saturday street party and Dyke March and rally on Pride weekend, the San Francisco Police Department has backed away from insisting the annual parties be dry events. As in years past, the police will allow celebrants to drink alcohol, albeit responsibly, in the park and on the streets.

"It is going to be business as usual. But at the same time, we want to let people know we do have concerns," said Mission Station Sergeant Nick Rubino. "We don't want to have to police it. Our job is to make sure everyone has a safe and fun event."

The concerns stem from last year's celebrations, where police say drinking got out of hand at the rally in Dolores Park prior to the Dyke March and at the Pink Saturday street party, where police even arrested an out of town officer for public drunkenness.

"We had calls for an ambulance before the parade even happened," said Rubino of the Dyke March. "The crowd appeared a little bit younger than it had in the past. The feedback from my officers was everybody was drinking to excess and it became a problem."



SFPD Captain John Goldberg

Officer Lisa Frazer, the station's liaison to the LGBT community, stressed that the police "love our community events. We want to work with the community." But with the warm weather last year and increased foot traffic in the Castro, "things got a little out of hand."

She said the police's main issue is "we don't want people to bring in bottles to the event and become so intoxicated they become a safety issue to themselves and others."

The police met Monday, May 23 with representatives from the Dyke March; the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, who hold the street closure permit for the Saturday night party; Frameline, the

gay and lesbian film festival whose audience spills into the street party after a movie screening that night at the Castro Theatre; Castro merchants; and various city staffers to voice their concerns. At the meeting, the police indicated they would clamp down on drinking at this year's festivities.

According to a note in the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro June newsletter, the police had informed organizers that they would be "strictly enforcing the no alcohol on the streets regulations during Pink Saturday." The street party held annually in the Castro the Saturday night prior to the Pride Parade is designated as a "spontaneous event" by city officials. In past years, police have turned a blind eye toward public consumption of liquor on the streets, and merchants have been allowed to sell beer in plastic cups or plastic bottles despite the fact that the permit for the street closure does not allow for the sale of alcohol.

News that the police were changing their stance infuriated some merchants, who have backed a dry policy during Halloween, which draws a large number of straight people from outside the city and had increasingly turned violent until the ban on alcohol was established a couple years ago. In return for their backing of the booze ban at Hal-

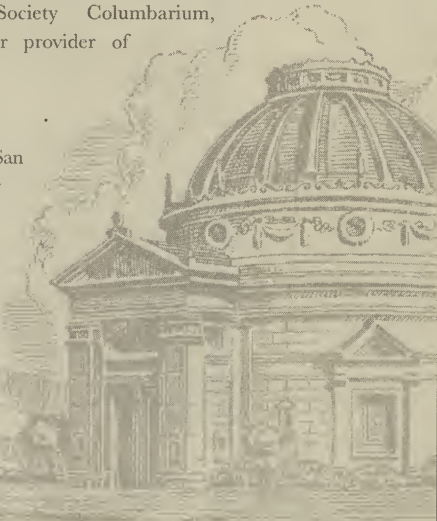
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Pride celeb marshals named

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Former pro football player Esera Tuaolo will join out lesbian television director Ilene Chaiken and gay actor Alec Mapa as this year's celebrity grand marshals, the San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration Committee announced Tuesday, June 7.

Tuaolo, who played for the Green Bay Packers, Atlanta Falcons, and other NFL teams, was in the league for 10 years before retiring and coming out as a gay man. He went to the Super Bowl with the Falcons in 1999. He is now pursuing his singing and acting career, having appeared in television commercials, and is the father of twins.

Chaiken is the creator of



Esera Tuaolo

Showtime's *The L Word*, about the lives of lesbians living in Los Angeles. She lives with her longtime partner and their 9-year-old twin

daughters.

Mapa is a comedian, actor and playwright who was born in San Francisco. He launched his career in 1989 with his award-winning role in the Broadway run of *M. Butterfly*. He currently stars as a cast regular on the UPN series *Half and Half*. He lives in Southern California.

"Each has done so much for the cause of diversity—Ilene Chaiken, producing a drama featuring lesbians of color; Esera Tuaolo, furthering human rights as an openly gay former football player; and Alec Mapa, as a performing artist from the Asian and Pacific Islander community. We are so

honored to have these LGBT leaders with us to celebrate the 35th annual San Francisco Pride," said Lindsey Jones, interim Pride director.

This year's Pride weekend takes place June 25-26, with the parade on Sunday. For more information, visit www.sfpride.org.



News Briefs

Pet fair Saturday

Best in Show, the Castro area pet store, is hosting its pet fair Saturday, June 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. at 300 Sanchez Street in San Francisco. Activities include pet portraits by Michael Tedesco (\$5 with a \$50 purchase at the store or \$20 without purchase); "Guys n Dogs" dog group play and walking information; dog training information; teeth brushing demonstration by resident oral hygienist Peigi Clemenshaw (3 to 5 p.m.); and veterinary care information (1 to 3). Additionally, Pets Are Wonderful Support will be doing outreach work on volunteer opportunities. For more information, call (415) 863-PETS or e-mail info@bestinshowsf.com.

East Bay chorus seeks members

The Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus is looking for singers for its sixth annual Invitational Pride Concert in the fall, with rehearsals getting under way on June 14 and continuing through September. Auditions take place Saturday, June 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays and there are two Saturday dates as well. For audition location and other information, call (800) 706-2389, e-mail auditions@oebgmc.org, or visit www.oebgmc.org.

DP financial planning

Merrill Lynch is hosting a free wealth management symposium for the LGBT community. Interested people are welcome to attend one of two sessions on Monday, June 13 or Tuesday, June 14. Workshops begin at 6 p.m. with light refreshments at the Merrill Lynch office, 600 California Street, 8th floor in San Francisco.

Topics to be addressed include learning about strategies that can benefit one's financial life with a special emphasis on estate planning. Preservation of assets for a partner or children, effective retirement planning techniques, domestic partner tax planning, and charitable planning also will be discussed. Financial advisers Michael Leeder and Todd Sears will lead the workshop.

For reservations or more information, call Leeder at (415) 955-3773 or e-mail Michael_Leeder@ml.com.

Challenging racism

Our Family Coalition will present a discussion entitled "Challenging Racism in a Multiracial Family" Tuesday, June 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. The discussion will include confronting racism, supporting identity, and multiracial families' sense of place in the broader LGBT community. The evening will include questions and conversation surrounding the dynamics of race, class, and privilege in the family. Free childcare will be provided in the center's Kids Space (RSVP to 415-856-5553). To register for the workshop or for more information, call (415) 981-

1960.

At the same time, Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere will hold its activity night for youth ages 7 and up with LGBT parents. The event is free but RSVP is mandatory to (415) 861-5438, ext. 102 or Meredith@college.org.

More financial planning

The economic development team at the LGBT Community Center will present a financial management workshop Thursday, June 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. The program, presented by Gabriel Paul, a registered representative of Woodbury Financial Services, will focus on managing debt, saving, investing in property, financial independence, and retirement.

There is a \$20 suggested donation, however, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. To register or for more information, call Ken Stram at (415) 865-5515 or e-mail kens@sfccenter.org.

COLAGE benefit

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere will celebrate its 15th anniversary Thursday, June 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the New College Cultural Center, 766 Valencia Street in San Francisco. The event will include the world premiere of the documentary *In My Shoes: Stories of Youth with LGBT Parents*, a youth produced film created by the COLAGE Youth leadership and Action program in collaboration with filmmaker Jen Gilomen. The film profiles five youth with LGBT parents sharing their views on a variety of subjects. The benefit also will include a silent auction and much more. Tickets are sliding scale \$15 to \$150, with free admission for youth under 18. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information, call (415) 861-5437 or visit www.colage.org.

Lesbian health confab approaches

The Lesbian Health Research Center will host its fifth annual health education event in San Francisco Saturday, June 18 and those interested can now register for this daylong event. "A Day of Complementary Care" is the theme for the conference. Featured topics include traditional Chinese medicine, presented by Misha Cohen; OMD, LAC; herbs and supplements, presented by Cathi Dennehy, Pharm. D; and "10,000 Steps to a Healthier You" with Dr. Ellen Hughes. Comedian Rene Hicks will serve as emcee.

The afternoon sessions will feature interactive workshops by leading health advocates including massage, acupuncture and acupressure, Chinese medicine, and guided imagery.

LHRC's mission is to enhance clinical practice and inform policy about the health care needs of and delivery of services to lesbians, bisexual women, and transgender individuals through research, post-graduate education and training, and public service.

The upcoming conference takes place at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street in San Francisco from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12 through online pre-registration, or \$15 at the door. Continuing education credit and scholarships are available. For more information, visit www.lesbianhealthinfo.org or call program coordinator Lisabeth Castro-Smyth at (415) 502-5209. ▼

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Addressing Discrimination at SFBadlands: What We Want Is What Everyone Deserves

Summary of the City's Finding:

On April 26, 2005, after one of the most comprehensive investigations in its history, the Human Rights Commission of San Francisco released the following Finding: that SFBadlands bar owner Les Natali "discriminated against African American customers when they were required to provide multiple forms of identification, discouraged from entering, denied entry for carrying bags, and removed from the bar on false charges of violating bar policy."

The City also found that Mr. Natali discriminated against African American job applicants, and expressed concern that, with the exception of a part-time bookkeeper, there were no women working at SFBadlands when the City's investigation began.

Finally, the City rejected Mr. Natali's assertion that his accusers were disgruntled former employees or were motivated by relationships with competitors.

Discussion:

Acts that interfere with the free exercise of a person's rights or privileges under state or federal law (e.g., those committed by Natali) are crimes under California Penal Code Section 422.6. All persons have the right to be free of racial discrimination in employment under FEHA law, and race-based bias in public accommodation is prohibited under the Unruh Act. The City's Finding, in the hands of enforcement bodies, exposes violations that can lead to license revocation or imprisonment.

Make no mistake about it: racial discrimination to the degree found by the City against Mr. Natali and SFBadlands is not just a civil wrong, but can and should be found by the CA Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and other regulators to constitute "crimes of moral turpitude."

Request for Action:

In light of the City's Finding, it is imperative that Mr. Natali:

- Apologize publicly to individual victims and to the broader community for engaging in the discriminatory acts detailed in the City's Finding
- Retract and apologize for the untrue statements he has made about the motives of his complainants and their supporters

This alone is not enough, however. The City and the State must enforce their own laws and policies as they pertain to this matter. To do otherwise renders our hard-won civil rights laws meaningless. In a City willing to challenge existing laws by extending to LGBT people the civil rights of marriage, it would be deeply troubling if our leadership, in turn, failed to uphold for people of color the civil rights already on record.

The sanctity of civil rights laws makes it imperative that City and State agencies:

- Take an unambiguous and public stand denouncing Mr. Natali's history of civil rights violations as detailed in the City's finding
- Deny Mr. Natali possession of any licenses to run new establishments - particularly those for the Pendulum bar, with its significant African-American clientele
- Revoke Mr. Natali's existing licenses, per State penalty guidelines for "crimes of moral turpitude"

We want accountability from those who violate civil rights laws.

We want moral leadership from our City and State officials, who are charged with upholding and defending our most basic civil rights - equal access to public accommodations and employment.

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Los Altos council nixes Pride proclamation

by Kevin Davis

LGBT high school students in one Peninsula city got an eye-opening lesson in how antagonistic their town's elected officials are, after a Pride proclamation was nixed last week.

After reluctantly proclaiming a Gay Pride Day last year, the Los Altos City Council voted last week to reject a similar request from the Los Altos High School's gay-straight alliance, due to an amended rule passed a few months ago, preventing it from making so-called political proclamations.

The students did receive support, though not a resolution, from the nearby Mountain View City Council. Students and the adviser from the Los Altos GSA were present Tuesday, June 7 when Mayor Matt Neely presented a Pride proclamation to representatives of the GSA at Mountain View High School and a queer youth center in the city.

At the Los Altos meeting, according to reports in the *Los Altos Town Crier*, Mayor David Casas read a prepared speech on why Gay Pride Day violates the council's modified rules and might cause exclusion and intolerance toward heterosexuals, telling the crowd that the council had worked on the resolution for months.

Council member Ron Packard, in a speech said to be a half-hour long, conveyed what he'd learned through Internet research on LGBT civil rights and the opinions of people opposed to them, and concluded that a declaration of the city's support for gay Pride in effect unfairly muffles gay rights opponents.

"The proclamation indirectly asks those who have opinions that homosexuality is wrong to keep quiet, and allow those who consider it correct to be the sole voice," said Packard, as quoted in the June 1 *Los Altos Town Crier* newspaper.

Packard labeled making such a proclamation a doctrinal and partisan issue that conversely, unjustly



Members and former members of the gay-straight alliance at Los Altos High attended the Mountain View City Council meeting Tuesday night. From left: Sandra Voss, president Ruth Gibbs, adviser; Alison Tarbell, former president and now a student at Harvard; and Kayla Smyth, treasurer.

ly intimidates open dialogue, and also raised its danger value for children.

"Whether it is wrong or not, to silence one side of all public dialogue on this social and religious issue or to discourage an open discussion between parents and children, provides a compelling reason why such a politically charged proclamation is inappropriate under our amended procedures," he said.

"Packard gave the longest speech I have ever heard," said meeting attendee MaryJoan Smyth, mother of Keyla Smyth, a longtime GSA member. "It went on and on. He brought up inflammatory remarks people make about gays, groups within the area. He said he got these ideas off the Internet — no supporting evidence, no reference sources."

The five-member council voted 3-1 against the proclamation with Council member King Lear vacationing in Europe. Lear had requested the council consider the proclamation and wrote a letter supporting Los Altos High's GSA.

"Frankly, I didn't buy the logic so it didn't stick in my mind," said Council member Curtis Cole who voted yes, and believes the amended rule is a response to last year's

proclamation. "I don't buy that just because it's split in Los Altos then it's inappropriate for the council. In my mind we're supposed to take a stand. We wouldn't need a city council when there is no division of feelings."

Another council member, Tom Forsman, believed that the ceremonial, symbolic acknowledgment of gay people's rights is not the council's responsibility, unlike budget matters, and shifted responsibility to the federal level.

"This is a constitutional issue. It is not the job of the council to endorse sexual preferences. You are here in a fiduciary role," said Forsman.

Smyth called labeling the proclamation divisive "obviously

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Victor Barcellona, DDS

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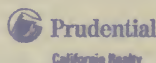
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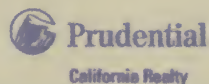
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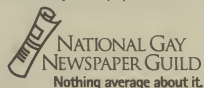
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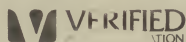
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OPEN FORUM

Marriage: Round two

We are bitterly disappointed that Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco) same-sex marriage bill failed to garner the needed 41 votes for passage out of the Assembly last week. We know that Leno and the Legislature's other out members – as well as lobbying groups and many LGBT community members – worked hard to persuade lawmakers that the time had come to make marriage truly equal in the state. It was frustrating to see the final roll call vote on the bill, and to know that some Democrats voted against it, while several others either did not vote, were absent, or abstained. The solidified Republican opposition to the bill was expected, yet the Democratic Party that claims to stand for inclusiveness seemed fractured. To his immense credit, born again Christian Assemblyman Alberto Torricco (D-Newark) overcame his early opposition on religious grounds and ultimately voted for the bill, proving that there is room for movement on same-sex marriage among those with strong religious beliefs. But in the end, Torricco's vote, while important, was not enough to carry the bill.

While some state LGBT leaders initially said last week that gay marriage was "dead for this year," it seems that in the days since the bill's defeat, a new strategy has emerged. Leno and the rest of the LGBT Legislative Caucus now plan to do a "gut and amend," replacing a bill that has already passed the Assembly with the same-sex marriage language and sending it directly to the Senate, where its chances of passage are more likely, given the 25-15 Democratic edge in that body. Once approved by the upper chamber, the bill would head back to the Assembly for a vote, giving legislators and community members more time to lobby wavering Democrats, and to pick up those four votes (the final vote on AB 19 was 37 in favor, 36 against).

It's important to recognize what went into the thinking behind this new strategy, which is embraced by a coalition of LGBT leaders and community activists. Next year is California's gubernatorial election, and we know from past experience that politicians are reluctant to pass gay rights measures in

an election year. Last year Leno pulled his marriage bill when it became obvious he didn't have the votes; and Democratic leaders were lukewarm about the idea in part because it was a presidential election year. Before Governor Gray Davis was recalled, he took a cautious approach to domestic partner and other LGBT-related legislation in election years. The notable exception came in 2003 when Davis found himself in the midst of the recall campaign and he signed AB205, which expanded rights and responsibilities for registered domestic partners. The prospect of getting Leno's marriage bill approved next year is remote, given the fact that Democrats are hungry to reclaim the governorship and other statewide offices that will be on the ballot.

In that context, now is the time to move forward with this new strategy. The process

is not some secret, backroom type of deal making. Hearings will have to be held in both the Senate and the Assembly, resulting in time set aside for public debate.

Geoffrey Kors of Equality California told us this week that the community shares some of the responsibility for AB19's defeat. We would tend to agree with that. Community members in parts of the state that are represented by wavering Democrats must unite and work to educate straight allies in those areas that same-sex marriage is not vilified as the evil death knell of marriage that social conservatives make it out to be. Lawmakers in Fresno don't want to hear from queers in San Francisco, but they should certainly listen to their own constituents, and those who support equal marriage rights must help get the ball rolling and build support in those communities. ▼

Editorial



Badlands employee speaks out

by David Sims

I am an African American male who has worked as a bartender at SF Badlands since August 2004. I was a customer of Badlands for two and a half years before I was hired as a bartender. During the years that I have been a customer and bartender I have never been discriminated against or witnessed discrimination against anyone at Badlands.

As a former victim of discrimination I feel pain for all the individuals who have perceived racism at Badlands due to misunderstandings, insensitivity, and mistakes. I believe that most of the individuals who have claimed incidents of discrimination at Badlands genuinely believe they were victims of racism. However, there is a difference between actual and perceived racism. I myself have made mistakes as a bartender by refusing to accept a suspected counterfeit bill, and when the customer loudly complained, creating a disturbance, he was ejected from the bar. That suspect currency turned out to be real. Now if that customer had been African American and the bartender had been Caucasian a claim of discrimination or racism could easily have been made. This is a clear example of the difference between perceived and actual racism.

I was interviewed by the Human Rights Commission during its investigation of Badlands, as were 20 to 30 other current and former employees and customers of Badlands. We were never given the opportunity to have our statements sworn, verified, or taken under oath by the HRC. After personally reviewing the investigation of the HRC I believe the HRC investigation was flawed and biased but I am not here to criticize or review a report by a governmental entity, which is the right if not duty of all American citizens to do.

Nevertheless, one glaring point in the HRC investigation must be highlighted for its offensive language. The fact that the HRC referred to a long term half black, half Jewish bartender as a "self-identified half African American" is an affront to all people of biracial heritage. How dare HRC ignore its stated goals and discount the heritage of a biracial individual, and more insulting is the context of the statement, which insinuates the bartender was fabricating his racial heritage. Such language is what biracial people have fought for years to destroy. Brian Bloom is not "self-identified" as half African American, he is – ask his strong black mother. Would you call District Attorney Kamala Harris a "self-identified" half African American? I think not. Such language reinforces the allegations that the HRC report is unreliable and biased.

Badlands currently has one of the most diverse bar staffs in the Castro. From the time that I started working there to the present, the clientele has become more diverse, and Mr. Natali and the bar staff have been working to build on this diversity. I believe Badlands in the last year has gone far and beyond any other Castro bar to increase its knowledge, sensitivity, and inclusion of people of minority races and this should be applauded. What And Castro For All has done for the San Francisco LGBT community should be applauded and hailed as well for its abilities to highlight inequalities in the Castro. I encourage And Castro For All to continue to discuss ways the Castro can work toward more inclusion and diversity. However, revenge against Les Natali is not the answer. It is time for both sides to come together to join forces for diversity and inclusion.

clusion.

I am proud of my race and proud of the gay African American community of the Castro for standing up for more diversity and inclusion in the Castro. Yes, the fact that there are less than six African American bartenders in the Castro/Upper Market area and one business owner is appalling and we should all work to change this, but we cannot ignore that two of the six African American bartenders currently work at Badlands.

It touches me everyday to see my African American brothers and sisters come into Badlands and say "it is good to see you here."

I am proud to say I support Badlands, and I am proud to say I support diversity and inclusion for all.

Martin Luther King said, "Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness." I have decided to walk in the light of creative altruism and support diversity and inclusion in the Castro by being an example for other African American bartenders after me.

Let us put down our pickets, our flyers, our lawyers, and our hate and come to the table of brotherhood to make the Castro an oasis for all people regardless of color because anything less is a futile mission and does nothing to make the Castro a place of harmony for all. ▼

David Sims is a second year law student at the University of San Francisco School of Law; he earned bachelor's degrees in communications and political science at Wake Forest University and a master's degree in international studies at North Carolina State University.

LETTERS

No time for complacency

Last week, the California state Assembly came remarkably close to passing a bill that would have granted same-sex couples the right to a civil marriage. Of those who voted, more legislators than not supported marriage equality. We came within inches of winning and the vote was historic. To come so close to winning and to give up would be a waste of an incredible opportunity. It is with this in mind that we respectfully suggest to our community that we need to keep this issue alive, and not back down in the face of a minor setback on the road to full civil rights. We acknowledge that every civil rights battle has been an enormous challenge, riddled with devastating losses before victories. But we know that our community is up for the task.

Our momentum has been building because we are a movement. A movement made up of everyday citizens whose rights are being denied, and who will no longer wait to be heard. Somewhere between last November's elections and last Thursday, the conventional wisdom on political support for marriage equality shifted. At the state Democratic Party convention, the California Democratic Party made marriage equality a top priority for this year.

We will prevail and we believe we can prevail this year. Next year is not an option. With a governor's race happening, no one will move this issue. Waiting until 2007 is unacceptable. Although AB19 fell just short of passing the Assembly, this same bill can now move forward in the Senate and come back to the Assembly in September. With three lesbians in the Senate, and one of them, Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), at the helm of the powerful Appropriations Committee, we can win in the Senate as we continue to work with Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), our steadfast leader, on wavering Assembly members, and launch a vigorous education campaign across the state.

We must not hesitate in our struggle for equal rights. We can't let this temporary setback stop us. We must redouble our efforts and quickly, to gain the support of straight Democratic legislators who did not vote for marriage equality. One of the reasons for the success of the civil rights movement in the 1960s is that African American activists succeeded in per-

suading white liberals and moderates that equal rights for black people was a moral issue that demanded their active support. We are at a crossroads and we must be clear with our straight allies that their active support for our civil rights is a moral issue that demands they stand with us in our time of need.

When San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer struck down the state's one man-one woman marriage law, he wrote, "It appears that no rational purpose exists for limiting marriage in this state to opposite-sex partners." Kramer also said that the state's current marriage law violates the civil rights of gays and lesbians because it takes away "the basic human right to marry a person of one's choice." Soon the state Supreme Court will hear the appeal. If we don't rise up and move this issue, it sends a signal to them that they can mow us down.

Last week, the *San Francisco Chronicle* editorial board said, "It's time." That statement is still true one week later. Join us in demanding the best of ourselves and Our Legislature. ▼

Guest Opinion

Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club; Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club; Supervisor Tom Ammann; Sally Buchman, Pride at Work; Miguel Bustos, Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club board member; Joey Cain, President, San Francisco Pride Committee; David Campos, San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee; Supervisor Bevan Dufty; Jerry Fuller, Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club; Michael Goldstein, SF Democratic County Central Committee; Robert Haaland, SF Democratic County Central Committee; Thom Lynch, Executive Director, LGBT Community Center; John Newsome, Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club board member; Greg Shaw, President, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club; Laura Spanjian, Co-Chair, Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club; Owen Stephens, President, San Francisco Young Democrats; Saskia Traill, Vice President, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club; Debra Walker, Vice Chair, California Democratic Party, LGBT Caucus; Scott Wiener, Co-Chair, Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club; Lisa Williams, Co-chair of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action; Andy Wong, Asian Equality

Natali's attorneys respond

In your June 2 issue, you published an opinion from Julius Turman, the complainants' attorney in the SF Badlands matter ("Past meets present at Badlands," *Guest Opinion*, June 2). It is evident that Mr. Turman does not believe Les Natali should be afforded due process. Mr. Turman states, and we agree, the Human Rights Commission did not provide Mr. Natali a due process hearing before issuing its findings. He also states, and we agree, the HRC has no authority to revoke any licenses or permits or in any way punish Mr. Natali.

However, we disagree with Mr. Turman's opinion that other agencies such as the Entertainment Commission and the Alcoholic Beverage Control board can or should use the HRC findings as justification to revoke Mr. Natali's licenses or permits, rather than making an independent decision of their own after holding due process hearings. Mr. Turman misleads readers by saying that the HRC findings have been reviewed and approved by the city attorney's office. Nothing could be further from the truth. The city attorney's office only reviewed the findings as to form and made no investigation or determination of any kind as to whether any of the findings are true. Community organizers have misled the community by touting that the Human Rights "Commission" has made findings against Mr. Natali. In fact, the HRC commissioners as a body have never held a hearing of any kind and they have never even considered or made any decision on the complaints. Likewise, the HRC director who issued the findings never conducted a hearing on the complaints and never even talked to the complainants or to Mr. Natali.

To set the record straight, Mr. Natali has not been found to have violated any law or ordinance or anyone's civil rights as a result of any due process hearing or by any court or trier of fact. Courts have ruled that when charges have been made against a person which stigmatize his reputation or impair his opportunity to earn a living or which might seriously damage his standing in the community, that person is entitled to due process ... and be given an opportunity to refute the charges and clear his name.

Just as it was wrong 40 years ago, and is wrong today, to deny fundamental rights to persons of color and sexual minorities without due process hearings and the opportunity to cross-examine their accusers, it is wrong to deny Mr. Natali the fundamental right to earn a living without providing him those same due process rights.



Mailstrom

Finally, as Mr. Natali's attorneys, we wish to thank members of the Castro community and city officials, including Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who have expressed an interest in engaging in mediation discussions with Mr. Natali. We are hopeful we can move forward and resolve this matter for the benefit of the community.

Paul Melbostad
Barry Strike
Attorneys for Les Natali

Remove 'SF' from 49ers name now

As a student of sports with a master's degree in sports management from the University of San Francisco, I spent the last three years researching and studying racism, sexism, homophobia, and ignorance in professional and amateur sports. After reading about the 49ers in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, I am enraged.

In light of this racist, sexist, homophobic, and ignorant training video; Garrison Hearst's homophobic comments; and the homophobic taunts and assaults by 49ers toward their openly gay trainer, it is clear that the San Francisco 49ers organization, as a whole, is not worthy of the use of our famously diverse and tolerant city. Named after St. Francis of Assisi (the "where there is hatred let me sow love" doctrine), San Francisco deserves better.

Call them the "Santa Clara 49ers."

The bringing to light the existence and use of this video is both commendable and infuriating. The fact that this video was used after a two and a half hour diversity training workshop shows that the level of seriousness the 49ers have regarding this problem in sports is lacking. Presenting the video at that time makes light of the previous 2 1/2 hours of training, leaving the viewer with the impression that it is all a joke. Tolerance and understanding is not a joke.

In my eyes, Mayor Newsom and every citizen of San Francisco deserve an apology. Urge the Santa Clara 49ers organization to take very quick and definitive action to show their understanding of the seriousness and to show their integrity.

I urge the NFL to discipline the Santa Clara 49ers to show the country their disapproval. Is this truly how the NFL wants its newest players, including the #1 overall draft pick, to be orientated into the league?

I call for the Asian community, gay and lesbian

next page ►

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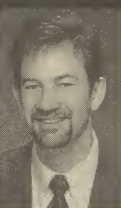
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community, and all San Franciscans to boycott the Santa Clara 49ers until they show that they are deserving of the San Francisco affiliation.

Jim Herrmann
San Francisco

My two cents on SF Badlands

I am writing this not because I am in any way, offering my support to Les Natali and his past actions. I am writing this because I believe that many good people have lost focus on what are clearly larger community issues (i.e. discrimination and ageism). Truly, there are no excuses for discriminating against anyone for any reason. This extends to those in And Castro For All and their behavior.

I do want to raise questions about what I am observing and what I am hearing. When the HRC report was finally released, I was not surprised that there were substantiations of many of the complaints against Natali. There are some of us who are concerned about how the HRC investigators handled many of the interviews. My point of view is that I have reservations about how unbiased the HRC is. I know and work with a human rights commissioner. I was astounded that during a training, she was quite clear she believed discrimination happened and voiced her distaste for Natali and SF Badlands. This was months ago in January. At least one commissioner was biased. How many others?

Second, I am wondering who And Castro For All is? What are the objectives of the group? Is it to raise awareness to discrimination and ageism in the Castro? The gay community? Or to put a particular business owner out of business? I am aware that discrimination and ageism are rampant in the Castro. How is it that we are focused on one owner? I would hope that we would want owners to make appropriate changes in business practices, like those changes that took place years ago at Midnight Sun, knowing that they are being watched and observed. It is disturbing that the HRC, in its infinite wisdom, decided how "black" one of the staff members is. I am sorry, but this is not HRC's call. The agency was to report on findings of an investigation, not to impugn another's race and ethnicity.

It would appear that some of those in the group And Castro For All have lost focus and are simply zealots. Why is it okay for patrons and those that work at Badlands to be mocked and ridiculed? Again, I have to go back to the beginning and ask, what are the objectives of And Castro For All? I would have hoped that this group would be taking the high road, and stay focused on an identified problem and pose solutions without getting personal or making it personal. If you are going to wait for Natali to own up, you are fools. In the meantime, changes are happening. Those of you in the group, and some of you are coming to Badlands, I see you. I would think making the appropriate changes is what we would want. The current staff is made up of very good and ethical people. Come and find out.

There are positive things happening that are beginning to address some of these issues. The San Francisco Gay Men's Community Initiative is a group working hard at getting people together to talk. I know that some of the members of And Castro For All are also members of the SFGMCI. It would be nice if these gatherings were packed. Alas, many are too self-absorbed and would rather be ranting and yelling rather than discussing and dialoguing.

Edward Byrom
San Francisco

Take dispute to court

With so much talk about the guilt of Les Natali after the investigation by the SF Human Rights Commission and the weekly protests in front of the SF Badlands, I keep asking myself the same question over and over: If someone really has a case against Les Natali, why don't they take it to court? Why are they continually talking about the HRC?

And then I have to ask about the HRC: Who are the persons that encompass this group of investigators? Were they elected? Or are they political appointments by mayors? The answer is the latter. Isn't that all they do? Investigate? So, when the rest of the world goes to civil court over things such as being kept out of a business establishment based on race, why don't the complainants? Would it not settle the matter once and for all?

Wasn't the old saying that we grew up with innocent until proven guilty in a court of law?

Joe Cooper
San Francisco

Gay Asians and the Badlands boycott

As a gay Asian man, I am ashamed of Rico Peng, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance board member who recently resigned from that board because his organization endorsed the Badlands boycott ["GAPA board member resigns over pickets," June 2]. According to Mr. Peng, who has been working at Badlands since December 2004, "personally, I don't think it is true. I've never experienced any kind of discrimination." Given

how many Asian Americans continue to go to Badlands, I am afraid he is not alone in this assessment.

I am sad to see that, for Mr. Peng and many of my fellow gay Asian Americans, discrimination does not exist until they have personally witnessed it or become the victims of it. This view is shortsighted and narrow-minded. If we, as Asian Americans, do not stand with others against discrimination when it happens to them, who will stand with us when discrimination happens to us? Apparently for some in the gay Asian community, until someone decides to require multiple forms of identification from us and call us "chinks," "gooks," or "nips," discrimination will not be real. This is like reverse NIMBYism: "Not until it's in my backyard!" What does Mr. Peng think Les Natali, the owner of Badlands, would have done if, between 2001 and 2004, Mr. Natali thought that there were just too many Asians at Badlands and he didn't want to be the owner of an "Asian bar" in the Castro?

I encourage Mr. Peng and everyone in our community to read the Human Rights Commission's 28-page report on acts of discrimination at Badlands. If Mr. Peng did so, he would know that some of the witnesses to the discriminatory practices at Badlands were Asian Pacific Islander. He would also be aware that it was African American customers, and non-African American employees and a community service organization that came forward with evidence of discrimination. It was not, as many seem to want to believe, the complaint of one disgruntled ex-employee. The report makes it clear that discrimination at Badlands was pervasive and real.

As for Mr. Peng, it does not take a rocket scientist to see that the reason he has had such a good employment and social experience at Badlands recently is because Les Natali started to diversify his staff (and hired Rico Peng) after the claims of discrimination became public. Mr. Peng should ask Les Natali what prevented him from having a "diverse staff" and non-discriminatory policies from the very beginning.

Mr. Peng thinks the boycott only harms employees of color. I disagree. Instead of apologizing to the victims of discrimination, Les Natali has responded to the revelations of discrimination by hurriedly diversifying his staff and lowering the price of drinks. Mr. Peng got a job, and his friends are saving money on booze. If nothing else, Mr. Peng has the boycott and the courageous victims of Les Natali's discrimination to thank for that.

Tyler Vu
San Francisco

A right to protest

We have a right to protest. After receiving complaints for years from African Americans for unfair treatment by Les Natali at Badlands, a group came forward to let the public know that the civil rights of black people were being violated. The Human Rights Commission conducted a 10-month investigation and concluded that Les Natali and Badlands has discriminated against black people. It is a fact. Well, apparently, Badlands still feels that it's okay to continue to deny people their civil rights. This past Saturday, after five weeks of protest picketing on Saturday nights, Badlands employees placed barriers in the middle of the public sidewalk to inhibit our two-hour picket of the bar. They went even further by jabbing our safety monitors in their backs and ribs throughout the protest (just so you know Les, the state considers that to be an assault). Our safety monitors are there to insure that the picket does not block the entrance of Badlands so those customers who choose to cross the picket line can safely enter. We've made a commitment to not "shame" Badlands customers. We've made a commitment to be non-violent and non-threatening. Black people have the civil right to protest on a public sidewalk when those accommodations have been violated. Once again, the police had to inform the Badlands staff of our rights and to move the barriers. It seems that Les and his staff need to go back to school and study Civics 101 — apparently after all of this time and many conversations, civil rights is a lesson that they still have yet to learn.

Calvin Gipson
San Francisco

What's the context?

In reference to your recent editorial "Bring in Hammer" in the May 12, issue; I don't question the fact that it would be great to have the original prosecutor re-hired now that the DA's office is involved again in the dog-mauling case that resulted in Diane Whipple's death.

However, this is the fourth occasion that the phrase, "Hammer, who is also openly gay" has been in the B.A.R. There is a disconnect here because Jim Hammer has been on a Fox show practically every weeknight, for the last year and a half, discussing the Scott Peterson and Michael Jar's son trials. Certainly it would be news to Fox viewers that Hammer is gay, so what does "openly gay" mean in this context?

Leonard Maran, LCSW
San Francisco

Mental health pickpockets

by Bill Barnes

San Franciscans support taxing millionaires to fund mental health, but it appears the Schwarzenegger administration hoodwinked us. Proposition 63 got 74.6 percent of the vote in San Francisco, compared to 49.6 percent in San Joaquin County. State figures say we'll get \$5.3 million next year while San Joaquin gets \$5.5 million. A biased state formula punishes us for investing local funds and counts total population as half the score, even though we have among the highest need in the state.

Meanwhile, Mayor **Gavin Newsom** hosted Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** at World Environment Day on June 1 at City Hall.

Department is unsettling as we gear up for this fight. At City Hall, this court decision should send a clear message to drop any scheme for regulating medical cannabis clubs that could lead to federal prosecution. Limiting new clubs to designated areas and potentially closing some existing clubs might make sense, but any effort to collect information about practitioners or users should be dead on arrival.

Barnestorming

Say what you will of former Mayor and Assembly Speaker **Willie Brown**, but when he called state Senator **John Burton** (or his successor **Carole Migden**, when she was in the Assembly) up in Sacramento, things got done. With Migden now a state senator and chair of Senate Appropriations, **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) on Assembly Appropriations, and former child psychologist Assemblyman **Leland Yee** (D-San Francisco) up there, let's hope San Francisco's legislators can deliver on Newsom's \$50 million promise when it's all said and done.

Who let the dogs out?

Mayor Newsom announced a new panel in the wake of the pit bull attack last week that left a Sunset boy dead. Supervisor **Bevan Dufty** is a member of the panel, which will review "best practices" to help prevent these kinds of tragedies in the future.

The last high profile San Francisco dog mauling death is still fresh in many of our minds, and the community is still waiting for District Attorney **Kamala Harris** to announce her decision about whether to allow former homicide chief **Jim Hammer** to reargue the Diane Whipple case.

Up in smoke

Who would have thought that medical marijuana patients would get the support of only three Supreme Court justices—**William Rehnquist**, **Clarence Thomas**, and **Sandra Day O'Connor**?

All three justices sought to limit the role of an intrusive federal government. Justice Thomas reasoned: "[b]y holding that Congress may regulate activity that is neither interstate nor commerce under the interstate commerce clause, the court abandons any attempt to enforce the Constitution's limits on federal power."

There's definitely a lot on the line when our next justices are nominated, and no one I know wants another Thomas. Yet the failure of both Clinton appointees—**Ruth Bader Ginsburg** and native San Franciscan **Stephen Breyer**—to stand up for patients against the overreaching Justice



Mayor Gavin Newsom welcomes Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to World Environment Day June 1 at City Hall.

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Herrera's heroics

With all of our legal woes in Washington, we're lucky to have City Attorney **Dennis Herrera**, who's done such a good job that he's currently running for re-election unopposed. From fighting for same-sex marriage equality to taking on Pacific Gas & Electric, Herrera continues the path of his activist predecessor **Louise Renne** while steering the office in a more populist direction. Major improvements noticed all across town include Herrera's focus on code enforcement and tackling government corruption. Herrera earned the early endorsement of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club and attended a successful fundraiser last week sponsored by Assemblyman **Mark Leno**, Entertainment Commissioner **Terrence Alan**, and the San Francisco Late Night Coalition.

AIDS isn't over

Last week, I said I'd update you on AIDS cuts in the mayor's budget. In the interest of full disclosure, I've been actively working to restore the funding. This is the only time I'll write about it, and I'm not offering any personal thoughts, just sharing the facts. The mayor's budget submission reflects a \$15 million HIV/AIDS cut (nearly 21 percent). Seventy-one million dollars was in the budget last year; this year \$56 million was proposed. Supervisor **Chris Daly**, who I used to work for, aggressively questioned the mayor's staff and was joined in his concern by Supervisor **Tom Ammianno**. The mayor's budget director, **Ben Rosenfield**, claimed the \$71 million number was inaccurate and after a lot of work by city Controller **Ed Harrington** and deputy controller **Monique Zmuda**, it seems as if the cut this year is \$6 million out of a \$62 million budget, on top of \$9 million from prior years. Everybody says they want some relief, including

the mayor's office, but there's no agreement on how much. You can read Daly's impressions on his blog (www.sfgov.org/daly).

Tony Awards

The Tonys aren't your classic political affair, but with funding cuts, an event at Jillian's helped the Stop AIDS Project raise a little dough. While I was disappointed **Sutton Foster** lost out for her role as Jo in *Little Women*, I gained a brand new respect for **Carole Shorenstein Hays**, the force behind *Best of Broadway*. While accepting the award for Best Play *Doubt*, Hays didn't just thank people—she gave the details on where to go see the show. If you can't make it to Broadway, *Wicked*, *Annie*, and the new Johnny Cash musical *Ring of Fire* are all in San Francisco this season.

Come out this week

There's a lot going on this week. The San Francisco Police Officers' Pride Alliance hosts a scholarship fundraiser tonight (Thursday, June 9) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Mighty, 119 Utah Street. Honorees include **Peter Poulos**, **Donna Sachet**, Sergeant **Chuck Limbert**, and Officer **Lisa Frazer**. Tickets are \$75.

On Saturday, June 11 the new progressive group SF People hosts its founding convention from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral at Geary and Gough. Hotel Workers President **Mike Casey**, Global Exchange co-founder **Medea Benjamin**, **Matt Gonzalez** and Supervisor **Chris Daly** all speak. There's also a performance by **Michael Franti** of Spearhead. The LGBT Caucus meets at 10 a.m. Find out more at www.sfpeople.org.

Assemblyman **Leland Yee** (D-San Francisco), whose record on LGBT equality is decidedly mixed, speaks at the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club on Monday, June 13, 6:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. Yee was one of just two supervisors to oppose healthcare benefits for transgender city workers. When asked about Leno's gay marriage bill last year by *Sacramento News & Review*, Yee said, "Right now, we don't need a wedge issue to divide the [Democratic] caucus." On the other hand, Yee did vote for the marriage bill when it came to the floor and finally introduced his first gay-related bill this year. ▼

Bill Barnes is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. His e-mail is billbarnessf@hotmail.com.

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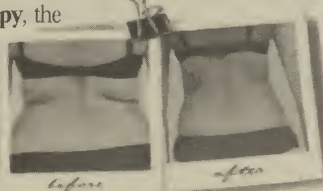
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Bryan Gescuk holds an A.B. degree from Harvard University, a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and a Medical Degree from the Boston University School of Medicine.

The tricky thing about identity

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Many years ago, as the transgender movement began to gain steam, transgender exclusion – usually within “women’s only” events – grew into a major issue. Today, this remains an issue. A “womyn born womyn” policy remains in effect at the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival, legal battles continue in Vancouver, British Columbia over not allowing a male to female transsexual to work at a women’s rape relief center, and – most recently – issues have cropped up at the Power Exchange, a San Francisco sex club.

The club in question has an event focused on lesbian and bisexual women, which organizers have opted to exclude all male to female individuals, but included female to male “girls” (their words, not mine) to the mix. After further clarification, this policy was slightly altered to include male to female individuals if their identification card or driver’s license has an “F” on it.

If anything – like the issues in Vancouver, and the long-standing struggle with the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival – there is no easy way to make all sides happy.

On one side, we have the desire to create a safe space, where everyone involved is going to feel comfortable within a like-minded crowd. For some, the inclusion of men, or even anyone who happens to have a penis, would violate that space. Others fear that by allowing male to female people into such a space, you open the door to male-identified individuals donning a dress and heading into places they probably should not be within.

Oddly enough, that last argument is the same one I hear whenever a policy is created to allow a transsexual to participate in women’s sports – but I digress.

The flip side of the coin is that many transgender people identify as one gender or another, yet their physical bodies, legal paperwork,

and/or other such things might not jibe with that identity. In some locales, a driver’s license or identification card cannot be legally changed to reflect a gender change, and in other cases financial realities might bar a transperson from gender genital reassignment surgery or other needs. Nevertheless, regardless of who they are, they potentially could be barred from the above examples.

Likewise, this can reinforce a belief that it is one’s genitals that determine one’s gender, which would therefore allow some folks in who are quite masculine in both identity and physical appearance. Not that I would suspect many female to males would wish to be in such situations, but I do suspect that those who might have a problem with “male energy” within a women’s only space might be a bit put off by the inclusion of transmen. Even if event organizers call them “girls.”

Early in my own transition, back in the days when my own body was largely masculine, and when my own driver’s license had an “M” on it, I was welcomed into a women’s space.

It was in that great equalizer of locations, an online chat room. This was in the days when one would still have to be tested before entry, where I was able to answer a question in order to gain access. Thankfully, I knew what a specimen was.

I was open about being transgender, and made sure that others knew that I wasn’t there to cause trouble, nor was I just some guy who opted to invade a women’s only locale. For my honesty, I was welcomed into that space, and like the others present, I respected both that virtual locale and those who called it their cyber-home.

During my time there, I saw plenty of male-identified people try to take a chunk of that space, just to satisfy their own base interests. They didn’t last long there, usually due to the crassness of their actions. Often, you could tell who and what they were within seconds – and this in a faceless



Christine Smith

medium.

I give this as an example of what has worked, and what can work in many of the above examples. Knowing that identity as “man” or “woman” can be so much more than genitals, government ID, or general opinion, why not base policy more on actions than identity?

If the goal is to prevent male-identified people from co-opting women’s spaces, then target the actions these individuals are likely to take. Afraid of voyeurs? Ban voyeurism. Don’t want “male energy”? Target those who choose to display such. You get the idea.

Meanwhile, it would also be incumbent on those transgender people who want access within these spaces to treat those within them with the same level of respect they wish to receive. Good old-fashioned golden rule sort of stuff. Do your best to be a part of the space, and to understand what is expected of all within it.

Yes, you still will not make everyone happy. Actions taken by transgender people in these venues may be watched much closer than those by the non-transgender, just watching for the first hint of a transgression. Meanwhile, others may still be offended to simply have a transgender person in their presence for no better reason than said person’s transgender status.

Perhaps another simple rule is this: life is short, and a happy time for all is always preferable. We should always be looking for ways to make as many people as comfortable as possible, and should be willing to allow for a – shall we say – level of variance.

It may be a wiser approach than a one-size-fits-all policy that will exclude a lot of wonderful people in the process, and otherwise elevate a great deal of long-standing ill-will. ▼

Gwen Smith described a specimen with one word: cold. You can find her online at www.gwensmith.com.

On the road to Los Angeles



Rick Gerhardt

Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center Executive Director Lorri Jean, on her recumbent bicycle, joins 1,600 other riders (and 400 roadies) in AIDS LifeCycle IV, which left the Cow Palace Sunday, June 5 and ends 585 miles later in L.A. this Saturday. The event, produced by the center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, this year raised more than \$6.8 million for the two organizations.

Waiting for the money

by Jane Warner

Bank of America, 501 Castro, June 4, 11:29 a.m.: A man waited in line for the teller. When it was his turn, he went up to the counter, put his right hand on his waistband as if he had a gun and his elbow on the counter. "Listen," the man whispered to the teller, "this is a robbery. Give me the money or I will kill you." Afraid for his life the teller handed the robber an undisclosed amount of cash, which the suspect took and stuffed into his pocket. The culprit, described as a mixed race male, 6 feet tall, 180 pounds, with short hair, wearing a green short-sleeve shirt and black jeans, fled out the bank in an unknown direction. Responding police searched the area, but could not find him.

Hit and run

Argent and Market, June 5, 11:25 p.m.: Hearing a loud boom outside his house, a resident looked outside his window and saw that a gray Honda Accord had hit his van. The resident watched as a woman got out of the driver's side of the sedan, looked at the damage, and then started running toward Twin Peaks. The resident called 911 and officers searched the area for the suspect, described as a white female, 50 to 60 years old and wearing a dark colored jacket, but could not find her. A search of the Honda's glove box, however, contained a registration belonging to a woman who lived in Kerman, California. Kerman police were contacted and sent an officer to the woman's address. A

roommate gave the Kerman police officer the woman's cell phone number, but all attempts to contact her were unsuccessful. The Honda was towed and held for further investigation.

Assault with a deadly weapon

Collingwood and 18th, June 2, 1:30 a.m.: After the bars had closed, a man was walking on Collingwood Street when he heard someone approach him from behind talking in Spanish. The man told the stranger that he didn't understand him, but the man continued to speak Spanish and appeared to become angry. The man thought he was asking for

money and gave him \$4 he took out of his pocket. The suspect became angrier, shoved the \$4 back into the man's pocket, and then stabbed him twice in the torso and fled in an unknown direction. The victim called 911 and was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where he was treated for two stab wounds and released. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 20 years old, 5 feet 5 inches, 140 pounds, and was wearing a black baseball cap and all black clothing.

Quick spender

The Cafe, 2367 Market, June 3, 11 p.m.: A woman draped her purse behind the back of a chair while drinking with a couple of her friends at The Cafe. After awhile, the group went to the dance floor. When they came back, however, the woman's handbag was missing. The manager was notified, and several employees searched the bar for the

missing purse, but could not find it. Alarmed, the woman called her credit card company, and was informed there had already been a fraudulent charge of \$200 made at Safeway in the Castro and a \$1,000 worth of fraudulent charges from unknown locations were still pending. The woman called the police and filed a report.

Assault

Cala Foods, 4201 18th, June 2, 12:40 p.m.: A car pulled into the parking lot of Cala Foods and parked directly in front of the elevators. When the driver got out of the car, a clerk saw his mistake and asked him to move. "Fuck you," the man replied and went into the grocery store. The clerk followed him and again told him he had to move his vehicle because it was blocking the handicap access. Enraged, the man turned and threw the set of car keys he was holding at the clerk, barely missing her head and striking the wall behind her. "Fuck you, you bitch, I don't have to do anything," the man screamed. Hearing the commotion, the manager of the store saw the suspect throw the keys at his clerk and intervened. A struggle ensued and the manager wrestled the man to the floor as other employees came to his aid. The police were called and officers soon arrived and broke up the scuffle. The 53-year-old suspect was cited for non-aggravated assault and escorted to his car where he was ordered to leave the property. The suspect did so without further incident. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.



Crime & Punishment

Noel takes parole fight to state Supreme Court

by Ed Walsh

The man convicted in connection with the fatal dog-mauling of Diane Whipple is not giving up on the fight to end his parole. After a defeat last month in an appeals court, Robert Noel has taken his battle with the parole board to the California Supreme Court, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

Robert Noel filed an appeal on Wednesday, June 1, petitioning the high court to end his parole immediately. Last month, an appeals court affirmed a decision by the Board of Prison Terms to retain him on parole. Noel, 63, was released from state prison in September 2003. He had been in custody since his arrest in March 2001 for the January 2001 dog attack on Whipple, his neighbor.

Noel was convicted of involuntary manslaughter. His wife, Marjorie Knoller, was found guilty of second-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter. Prosecutors successfully convinced a jury that the couple ignored warnings that their dogs were dangerous. A judge later threw out Knoller's murder con-

viction, but the California 1st District Court of Appeal in San Francisco reinstated the murder conviction last month. Knoller could be sent back to prison on the murder conviction later this year, pending the outcome of a hearing in San Francisco Superior Court. As part of last month's ruling, the appeals court affirmed a superior court's ruling that backed a Board of Prison Terms' decision to retain Noel on parole.

Noel alleges that the Board of Prison Terms had no right to keep him on parole beyond October 14, 2004. He contends that the board did not hold a meeting to discuss his parole in a timely manner and that the decision to retain him on parole was not made by a three-member panel of parole board members. He also argued that the board did not find any just cause why he should have to continue on parole.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Mary Morgan first ruled on Noel's parole appeal in January of this year. In her ruling, she wrote that the parole board has "broad, almost unlimited, discretion in parole matters." Noel appealed Morgan's decision to the

1st District Court. The state appeals court ruled last month that it denied Noel's appeal for the same reasons that Morgan denied it.

The California Supreme Court's communications office referred the B.A.R.'s questions about Noel's appeal to its court clerk's office. The clerk's office told the B.A.R. that the appeal was filed on June 1 and that the high court could take six months or more to review it.

If Noel's appeal to the high court is not successful, the parole board could keep him on parole for his full three-year parole term, which would end in September 2006. Noel is serving his parole in Solano County, about half way between San Francisco and Sacramento. Among other restrictions, the terms of his parole forbid him to return to San Francisco. Knoller is serving her parole in Florida, where her parents live.

Noel told the B.A.R. this week that he also plans to appeal his criminal conviction to the California Supreme Court or the U.S. District Court if the high California court does not side with him. ▼



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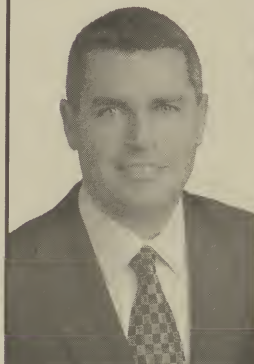
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Oakland film fest says no to SF influence

by Zak Szymanski

A misunderstanding between two Bay Area gay film festivals has led to the cancellation of one movie and raised some larger questions about turf rights when it comes to providing culture for the community.

Frameline, which produces San Francisco's annual International LGBT Film Festival, has pulled one film, Kyle Schickner's *Strange Fruit*, from its East Bay screenings scheduled for Oakland's Parkway Theatre June 20-23.

Frameline Executive Director Michael Lumpkin told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his organization canceled its plans to show *Strange Fruit*—a film about a successful black gay lawyer who returns to his rural Louisiana hometown to investigate the lynching of a gay childhood friend—when organizers from Oakland's International Black LGBT Film Festival informed him that they had planned to screen the film in August as part of their event.



Oakland Black LGBT Film Festival co-producers Joe Hawkins and Debra Wilson in front of the Parkway Theatre.

In a May 31 open letter to community members entitled, "SF INT'L GAY & LESBIAN FILM FEST EXPORTS ARROGANCE TO OAKLAND," Joe Hawkins, the co-founder of the Oakland festival and Bay Area Black In The Life Pride Week, accused San Francisco festival organizers of being dis-

respectful and of not recognizing the LGBT community already present in the East Bay city.

Hawkins told the *B.A.R.* that Frameline was enticed to Oakland by city officials last year who wanted to hype a controversial "gay district" planned for the area around the Parkway Theatre, and

that he and other LGBT community members had long expressed concerns about an outside festival stepping on local toes. Frameline, said Hawkins in his letter, promised to work with the community but never once returned his phone calls. Furthermore, said Hawkins, asking the San Francisco Black Film Festival to co-sponsor one of the black-oriented films in Oakland was political and "added insult to injury."

"How disrespectful this is to the Oakland International Black LGBT Film Festival and a divisive move on your part against a community struggling for empowerment," wrote Hawkins. "Right now in your own city of San Francisco, African American LGBT people and their supporters are fighting historically racist, dismissive, and arrogant attitudes displayed by some of the primarily white gay male leadership in San Francisco. You will not export that attitude to Oakland."

Lumpkin responded to the letter almost immediately by pulling *Strange Fruit* and writing a letter of his own to Hawkins and the



Frameline's Michael Lumpkin

community.

"In our discussions with the film's producers as we were programming the film, no mention was made by them that the film had been programmed in the Oakland International Black LGBT Film Festival. In April, Frameline made three attempts (two via e-mail and one via phone) to contact your festival's co-producer Debra Wilson. We received no response," wrote Lumpkin, adding that "our contact with the San Francisco Black LGBT Film Festival was in no way an attempt to cover any actions taken by Frameline or myself. Frameline works with many queer and person of color film festivals in the Bay Area every year."

Lumpkin attributed the scheduling error to miscommunication.

"We're all competing for films. If I was a festival in Oakland and a film had been promised to me for my festival, and another festival showed up with that film in my city, I would be upset too," Lumpkin told the *B.A.R.* "When I learned that was the case, we replaced the film. We wouldn't want anyone to do that to our festival, so that's what our actions were based on—treating another festival the way we would want to be treated as a festival."

But there is a bigger question raised by Hawkins in terms of what role San Francisco-based events should expect to have in the East Bay at all.

"Oakland has its own identity and we have our own community. We work together really well cross-culturally here and it's one of the things we're most proud of, and that's why it's so disturbing to me the way an outside entity just came over here without checking to see what's in existence here," said Hawkins. "We have rules of engagement. I think that if any organization from outside of Oakland plans to work within the city they would come in the spirit of community and work together with us, not as if they're Goliath trying to take over."

Lumpkin said Frameline's decision to screen films in Oakland reflects the fact that 25 percent of its audience lives in the East Bay. Several San Francisco-based festivals already have East Bay screenings, he said. Lumpkin added that Hawkins's complaints raise issues worthy of discussion.

"Because some movies showing in the East Bay may be part of a festival that has San Francisco in its name, what about that is troubling to some people in Oakland? I'm not saying it shouldn't be. But that to me seems to be the next level of discussion," said Lumpkin.

More information on the San Francisco festival can be found at www.frameline.org. Oakland's Black Gay International Film Festival begins in August; visit www.BBITL.net for details. ▽

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STOP AIDS PROJECT

COMMUNITY NEWS

AIDS activists protest Hastings garage plans

by Matthew S. Bajko

AIDS housing activists are speaking out against plans by Hastings College of the Law to build a multi-story parking garage on a lot in the city's Civic Center district. They contend that the proposed 450-car parking structure at Larkin Street and Golden Gate Avenue would harm the health of residents at 324 Larkin Street, many of whom are disabled or living with AIDS.

"Building a massive parking structure right next to people's homes isn't right. To my knowledge, no parking structure has been built this close to residential buildings," said Brian Basinger, director of the AIDS Housing Alliance. "Hastings' ill-conceived plan will put our residents at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. This is just plain wrong, especially when those people are suffering from AIDS, cancer, and other life-threatening disease."

James Nykolay, a two and half year resident of the Rainbow Flag Apartments, the building next to the proposed project, said he is worried about his health. Nykolay, who is HIV-positive, works at home and fears the garage will pollute the air he breathes.

"Hastings is proposing having auto exhaust pipes 15 feet from my bedroom window, 24 hours a day. What's going to happen to the disabled people, like myself, and seniors in our building who are home most of the time, breathing in those fumes?" said Nykolay, who is Basinger's boyfriend. "It's not like we can move. It took me five months to find this landlord, willing to rent to someone disabled from AIDS."

Hastings CFO David Seward said as part of the project's environmental review process, there will be "very rigorous analysis" on



AIDS housing activists at the demonstration against Hastings last week.

whether the project meets air quality standards.

"The environmental review will have to assess that and if there is an issue we will have to address that," said Seward. "I don't want to dismiss those concerns. But I can't say one way or the other if they are valid."

The garage, with six levels of parking above ground floor retail, would be built in conjunction with a new community YMCA. College officials have maintained that the parking is needed and the school does not need to adhere to city planning guidelines because as part of the University of California system, it is a state-owned facility.

Basinger organized a small group to protest in front of the Hastings campus at noon Thursday, June 2 in conjunction with the celebrations for the United Nations' World Environment Day.

Jeremy Nelson, policy director for Transportation for a Livable City, criticized Hastings for not proposing to build campus housing on the lot. Seward had planned to meet with the transit group the day of the protest, but the meeting was canceled.

"There is no need for this much parking on a campus where 40 percent of the students, facul-

ty, and staff commute to campus without a car and there are 2,900 parking spaces within walking distance," said Nelson. "What the community needs is more housing that is affordable to residents of the neighborhood."

Students also have voiced opposition against the parking garage.

"There is an 80-person waiting list for housing. I think it is egregious this project is moving forward without any student housing proposed for it," said Daniel Fratten, an openly gay member of the student council.

Supervisor Chris Daly, who was arrested during a 2002 protest over Hastings' plans, came out last week to show support to the activists. He said he disagrees with campus officials' contention that the city has no control over the parking proposal.

"I want to look at, since parking is not an educational use, to see if we can assert local oversight," said Daly.

The project has yet to be approved by the Hastings board, which is expected to give the go ahead this summer on the environmental review process, which could start later this fall or early 2006 and last up to a year. ▼

Sheriff's deputy fired over alleged antigay incidents

by Zak Szymanski

An ongoing investigation into complaints of antigay abuse at the San Francisco County jail in San Bruno has led to the recent firing of a deputy sheriff, Sheriff Mike Hennessey told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, June 6.

"A deputy sheriff has been served with termination papers related to this case," said Hennessey, who added that in accordance with the Peace Officers Bill of Rights, he could not provide any identifying information about the deputy involved or exact details of the investigation.

The case stems from complaints made almost two months ago, reportedly by gay inmates at the San Bruno lock-up, a medium-security facility typically reserved for lower security risk detainees awaiting trial.

A prisoner complained about incidents reportedly perpetrated by guards in February and March that included sexually explicit comments and inappropriate physical contact. A sergeant for-



Sheriff Michael Hennessey

warded those complaints to the sheriff's office, which began investigating immediately, said Hennessey. In the meantime, a second prisoner came forward to corroborate those accounts and make similar complaints.

According to earlier reports in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the combined complaints include allegations that a sheriff's deputy

drew breasts on an inmate's T-shirt, and that a deputy's cell phone was used to photograph and transmit disrespectful images of an inmate to other deputies.

The inmates who filed complaints reportedly took lie detector tests concerning their accounts of the events, but the results were not made public. Thus far, the media has referred to both inmates as men, although it is not yet clear whether they are in fact self-identified as female or transgender. Both inmates have since been transferred to the downtown jail facility in San Francisco.

Substantial evidence had to be established for Hennessey to take action, he said, which may speak to the case's merits.

"It's very hard to discipline or terminate a permanent civil servant in a he-said/she-said situation," said Hennessey. "It's very important to come up with corroborating information."

More than a dozen employee interviews are a part of the investigation process. The full investigation will take some time to be completed, said Hennessey. ▼

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Lesbian writer discusses 'Class Matters' in East Bay

by Zak Szymanski

It may seem like just another event to add to the LGBT-packed month of June, but for those genuinely interested in community organizing, attending next week's reading of *Class Matters: Cross-Class Alliance Building for Middle-Class Activists* could be worth the trip.

The book's author, longtime economic justice activist Betsy Leondar-Wright, will read from her latest release at Black Oak Books in Berkeley on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Leondar-Wright, 49, is a lesbian who works for the Boston-area organization United for a Fair Economy and who has organized efforts around tenants' rights and

pay equity and against war, apartheid, globalism, and nuclear power.

It is her experience with various movements that has shaped the basic message of her book — that "class prejudice is probably the single greatest obstacle to broadening movements toward progressive social change."

"A lot of coalitions fracture along class lines," Leondar-Wright told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And it weakens our efforts."

Hoping to make cross-class organizing easier for liberals and progressives, Leondar-Wright began interviewing people — 40 in all, from a variety of class, race, and family backgrounds — "to see if there were people out there who knew how to do it better," she said. The result is a finished product in

handbook form that reads as a how-to manual as well as a pictorial history, with quotes, resources, first-person accounts, and ideas for effective bridge building.

Class Matters also has a special section on the GLBT movement, which Leondar-Wright argues is "one of the identity movements in which class privilege has both distorted the image of the constituency and distorted the substance of its political stands."

Class-entrenched myths about both the LGBT community and homophobia, she noted, are often perpetuated by the populations whose own goals require those stereotypes to be broken.

The most common media portrayal of gays, for instance, is well-off gay men living in an elite culture. Homophobes frequently reference gay people's supposed higher incomes as a way to show that gays are not a disadvantaged population. Yet these images and numbers can come from the gay community itself — with the mainstream media and right wing simply referencing the marketing materials that LGBT publications use to woo advertisers. In reality, said Leondar-Wright, some surveys have placed gay men's incomes as slightly lower than the average male, while lesbians and transgenders may be living in relative poverty compared to their heterosexual peers.

Still, Leondar-Wright points out, the GLBT institutions leading

the movement are doing so with seemingly little class consciousness. The author recently was given a complimentary ticket to one prominent gay organization's black-tie dinner, she said, "and most of the program really did sound like if only we could get married our problems would be over."

Putting the most privileged members of a population in charge of a movement, she said, means presenting "a very distorted view of what the issues are," whereas "queers come in every race, color, and class, and when you're listening to the voices of all LGBT people you hear about what happens to high school kids when they come out, the issues of homelessness, suicide prevention, and housing for people with AIDS, as well as sexism and pay inequities for lesbian households. You get this wide range of issues that are facing our community."

The idea that homophobes are working class thugs is also a dangerous myth, she said, which prevents meaningful alliances with working class activists and also ignores the fact that the powerful decisions about discrimination are coming from upper class educated folks.

As some of the people in her book point out, being working class can come with its own kind of queer sensibility, a "deep distrust of the system," as Joanna Kadi described in her piece, featured in the



Author Betsy Leondar-Wright

"GLBT and C" chapter.

Which is not to say there is no correlation between income and homophobia. But it has more to do with the socializing institutions available to certain populations — universities versus the military, for instance — and whether those institutions bring its members in contact with openly LGBT people, said Leondar-Wright.

"Our movement needs to reach out. We need to take it to the neighborhoods and workplaces, and make more links between the labor and gay movements," she said. "When people get to know us, that's when prejudices are reduced."

In addition to the Black Oak Books event next week, Leondar-Wright will attend a book party brunch held in a private house — but open to the public — on Saturday, June 18, in Oakland. Those interested in attending should e-mail

TGriffith@publiccampaign.org for the time and location. For more information about the book, visit www.classmatters.org. ▽

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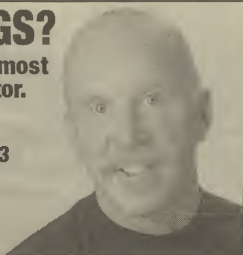
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Dean calls civil unions the right approach

by Matthew S. Bajko

With the defeat last week of a pro gay marriage bill in the state Assembly, California's LGBT leaders should now push for civil unions, declared Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean.

Noting that even "the gay community is divided on this" Dean said, "In my view it is hard to pass gay marriage when people are rejecting it all over the country."

Speaking by phone to the *Bay Area Reporter* on his way to a fundraising dinner Monday, June 6 with local LGBT Democratic leaders, Dean said the best strategy for achieving equal rights for same-sex couples is through civil unions, which he signed into law in 2000 as Vermont's governor and Connecticut lawmakers just enacted in April.

"My belief is equal under the law can be done under civil unions. That is what is now going on," said Dean. "I certainly, I don't know the details of why the gay marriage bill was defeated, but I would hope Democrats would come back with a civil unions bill."

Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who saw his gay marriage bill narrowly defeated last Thursday, strongly disagrees. He is working with the other LGBT members of the Legislature to revive his bill in the Senate this year in a process called "gut and



DNC Chair Howard Dean

amend," where a bill already approved by the Assembly is switched in the Senate with the gay marriage bill's language.

"I see no wisdom in his comments. We can and we will legislatively pass marriage equality in California. I see no reason for him not to support that effort," said Leno. "For the same reason as domestic partnerships don't bring us first-class citizenship, civil unions do not provide first-class citizenship. Anyone who does not understand that needs to be further educated."

Dean, the former Democratic presidential candidate who was elected party chair in February, has long been against gay marriage. He enraged some gay rights

activists earlier this year when he told the 16-member Gay & Lesbian Americans Caucus of the Democratic National Committee on February 11 that Democrats are not for gay marriage, according to the Associated Press. Instead, the AP quoted him as saying, "We are the party that has always believed in equal rights under the law for all people."

At a meeting in April at the California state Democratic convention, Leno spoke to Dean about his comments.

"I did mention to him it is important we speak of marriage in terms of equality as opposed to in terms of gays. I realize we are not going to elect U.S. senators from Kentucky or West Virginia by putting that at the top of our agenda, but that doesn't mean he should be making definitive statements that Democrats don't support marriage equality," said Leno. "We need to be treating the issue with more respect."

It is not the first time a remark from Dean has gotten him into hot water. His presidential campaign quickly fizzled out after his infamous scream the night of the Iowa caucuses. Lately, Dean has also been attacked for comments about House Republican Majority Leader Tom Delay going to jail for as-of-yet unproven charges he broke Texas campaign finance laws and for saying Republicans have "never made an honest living

next page ▸

San Jose Pride this weekend

by Zak Szymanski

San Jose hosts its LGBT Pride festivities this weekend, with several events for community members.

A two-day event with activities and entertainment for everyone, San Jose Pride celebrates its 30th anniversary this year with a theme of "Eyes on Equality."

Pride begins Saturday, June 11 with a free community day in the park at Discovery Meadow. Saturday's events are from noon until 6 p.m. and include pickup volleyball, local performers, bingo games, and food and drink.

On Sunday, June 12 is the Pride

Parade and festival, beginning with a march along Market Street at 11 a.m. between St. John and San Carlos. Festival entertainment at Discovery Meadow includes superstars Jody Watley, Bow Wow Wow, La Bouche, and Marga Gomez, plus Lisa Dewey and the Lotus Life, Orchestra de Soul, the Cheeseballs, and many other acts.

Other attractions include a community dance tent, a leather alley, a country western dance area, and the ProLatino cultural garden with a Latin dance stage.

Sunday's festival events are \$13 general admission, with advance tickets available for \$10 at Saturday's event. Seniors and youth under 14 get in free. For more in-

formation visit www.sjgaypride.com.

Related activities take place at the First Congregational Church, 1980 Hamilton Avenue in San Jose. Noted author and theologian the Reverend Dr. Robert Goss will speak at the 12th annual "Celebration in Spirit" workshop and worship service Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11. The events coincide with Pride and are sponsored by the Gay Ministries Committee of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches, said the Reverend Michael Ellard, senior pastor at Spirit Connection MCC in San Jose and a member of the council.

On Friday, Goss will lead a

workshop entitled "Toward a Safer Sexuality and Spirituality," at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to all.

At Saturday's 10 a.m. worship service, Goss will preach a sermon entitled "A Phoenix Spirituality: Spirituality from the Ashes." Goss, a former Jesuit priest, is now a clergy member with Metropolitan Community Church. He is the author of several books, including *Jesus Acted Up: A Gay and Lesbian Manifesto* and *Queering Christ*, which was a Lambda Literary finalist. He holds a doctorate in theology from Harvard University.

Saturday's nondenominational service will be followed by a reception and the service will be led

by LGBT ministers from many South Bay churches. It is open to people of all faiths, regardless of sexual orientation, and childcare will be provided.

Also at the service, awards will be presented to local community leaders for their work on behalf of the community. Honorees include Debra Drake, chair of the Santa Clara County Human Resources Commission; Mitzi and Tom Henderson of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; and Bill Welch, president of Dignity/San Jose, an LGBT Roman Catholic organization.

For more information on the church events, visit www.gayministries.org. ▼

Dean

◀ previous page

in their lives."

Tuesday, Dean came under more attack for his abrasive remarks and his reliance on Internet fundraising in an article titled "Fundraisers jilt Dean" in *The Hill* newspaper. The story detailed how three top fundraisers at the Democratic National Committee have resigned since Dean took the helm and his Republican counterpart has raised twice as much money.

The paper reported that through the end of April, the DNC raised \$18.2 million in total contributions, according to a report filed with the Federal Election Commission, although DNC officials say that \$18.6 million is a more accurate total. By comparison, the Republican National Committee has raised \$42.6 million, according to FEC data — more than twice as much, said *The Hill*.

DNC spokeswoman Karen Finney defended Dean, telling the paper that Dean has raised more money by this point in the presidential election cycle than any other DNC chairman. Through the first three months of this year, the DNC raised \$14.1 million, ahead of the pace Chairman Terry McAuliffe set in 2001, when he raised \$23.5 million in the first six months of that year, said the report.

Asked about earlier reports on his lackluster fundraising, Dean refuted the claims, saying, "It is absolutely ridiculous. We are quite far

ahead of where we were in 2003."

And Dean sounded a confident note about Democrats' chances of regaining control of the Senate during the 2006 elections. Republicans now control the upper house with 55 seats over the Democrats' 44, with one Democratic-leaning independent.

"I think we've got a great shot. We have a great shot in Arizona, in Rhode Island, and in Pennsylvania," said Dean. "I think the American people will have an enormous back lash against the Republicans."

On California Supreme Court Justice Janice Rogers Brown, whom senators were expected to confirm to the federal bench Wednesday after they ended a two-year filibuster against her nomination Tuesday, Dean said, "My opinion is she doesn't belong there." Asked if John Bolton, whose nomination as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations has been heatedly contested by Democrats and some Republicans, Dean replied, "I hope not."

On another controversial topic, Dean characterized as "odd" the Supreme Court's decision Monday that the federal government could prosecute medical marijuana users despite state laws granting access to the drug.

"As a doctor, I am not a fan of medical marijuana because I believe there is not much evidence it does much for people. But in general, the states should have wide latitude in the process of making public policy," said Dean. ▼

Los Altos

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very transparent," and "hypocritical maneuvering."

Of the handful of citizens speaking against the proclamation, some "intimated that it's immoral," said Smyth. "This is what we're dealing with. Their reasoning, it's shocking to me. I thought I lived in an educated community where people had some kind of understanding of diversity."

Around 20 students, teachers, and activists lobbied for the proclamation during public comment, discussing campus harassment and their school's supportive staff.

Last year the Los Altos Council first moved public discussion of

the proclamation up on the agenda by a half-hour, leaving supporters scrambling, then offered "Tolerance Day," instead, with an audience of five in attendance. That proclamation passed after Wiggis Sivertsen, a longtime LGBT activist in the South Bay, mobilized the community.

This year, a week after Los Altos High GSA adviser Ruth Gibbs requested the proclamation be put on the agenda, the *Town Crier* ran the "no political proclamations" amendment story.

The scene was different in Mountain View. Last year Mayor Neely, by day an assistant principal, made a resolution by his own decision, shook the students' hands, and asked various school GSA advisors to speak, to applause. The same thing happened

Tuesday.

"We are a progressive and inclusive community and unlike some of our neighbors and even the state of California regarding the latest vote on the Assembly bill, you know, we do not believe gay and lesbian people are not as good or different and are a valued part of our community and want to express pride in their commitment, their achievement in our city," said Neely.

This year in Los Altos was the "exact opposite," said Gibbs, who said she wears her rainbow earrings everyday and whose gay son, Los Altos High's first male cheerleader in 1988, is the current campus theater manager.

"These kids are up there pouring their hearts out," she said of

page 27 ▶

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Brits examine SF cops' lavender approach

by Matthew S. Bajko

Lunch isn't normally seen as a police tactic, but Sergeant Mark Andrews of the Brighton and Hove Police Division in England sees it as one easy way to improve relations between his hometown's police and its LGBT community.

In town on a study trip to see how San Francisco police interact with the city's LGBT community, the openly gay Andrews said he was struck right away by where the cops grab a bite.

"The police eat their food in the community. We eat behind closed doors," said Andrews, 32, whose partner is joining him next week for Pride. "It adds a human factor to it here. Police do have to eat during a 10-hour shift, why not eat out in the community. It builds visibility and humanity."

Andrews said he was also impressed with the local police's style. "It is a very laid back, friendly approach," he said.

Andrews and Lisa Timerick, Brighton's LGBT community liai-



Visiting police officers from Brighton, England Sergeant Mark Andrews and Officer Lisa Timerick with SFPD Sergeant Chuck Limbert.

son/officer, are in town researching the methods San Francisco police use to patrol and work in the city's gay district. They are looking to bring back useful methods the police in Brighton can use to improve

on their department's outreach and relationship with their town's gay community.

About 60 miles south of London, Brighton is considered a London-by-the-sea and is home

to about 50,000 LGBT residents. In the summer, the population of the city's gay neighborhood, called Kemptown, swells as gay Londoners head for the beach.

Historically, LGBT communities

and police departments in most cities have been adversaries. Even today, working relationships between cops and LGBT people can be strained, with mistrust on both sides.

For years San Francisco's police department has strived to break down barriers and build up trust with the city's LGBT citizenry. It's been a long road, one mired with incidents of gay bar raids, riots in the Castro, and mishandling of transgender suspects.

Generally speaking, the department's efforts to reach out to the LGBT community over the last decade have generated much goodwill and better relations. LGBT people work openly on the force, LGBT diversity training has been implemented, and the department has designated officers as liaisons to the LGBT community.

Andrews, who covers Kemptown, said he and his officers "do get a good reception" and that over time they have also been "building up good connections in the community."

It is a marked change from just a few years ago, said Timerick, 27, who is bisexual and has been seeing someone who is male-to-female.

"There was no relationship with the gay community," she said.

The department specifically hired her to help it connect with LGBT crime victims, many of whom either don't trust police or are still in the closet and fear that reporting an incident will out them. Timerick's job is to encourage people to report homophobic attacks, ranging from physical assaults to verbal harassment, which is punishable in England. Each month she handles between 15 to 20 incidents.

"It's been two years working there now. In the U.K., I don't think it is a huge epidemic, but compared to here it is worse," she said of hate crimes committed against Britain's gay community.

For their efforts reaching out to the city's LGBT community, Andrews and Timerick won the Police Review Award for Diversity in Action, handed out last November by the Police Superintendents Association of England and Wales. The award comes with a £5,000 cash award, which the Brits are using to fund their study trip to San Francisco.

With Brighton's gay clubs and cafes located in one neighborhood similar to the size of the Castro, the pair wanted to see how San Francisco police work with the LGBT community. They arrived May 17 and leave Monday, June 27 after gay Pride, where they will be marching in the parade with the Pride Alliance, the San Francisco LGBT cops' employee group.

The Brits, who both sit on the national executive committee of the U.K.'s gay police association, have been trailing police from Mission Station, which covers the Castro District, since arriving in town. They have done ride-alongs with out San Francisco Officer Lisa Frazer and Sergeant Chuck Limbert, and as luck would have it, attended a Castro merchants meeting where Mission Station Captain John Goldberg came to clarify the police's alcohol policy during Pride weekend this year [see story, page 3].

"It showed very good leadership on the captain's part," said Andrews afterwards.

Timerick added that, "People said it was a really controversial meeting. Our meetings in Brighton are really horrendous, that was like a sit down and chat."

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Medical pot

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which she obtains free from two caregivers who cultivate it for her. Monson, who has chronic back pain due to degenerative spine disease, grows her own; Drug Enforcement Administration agents raided Monson's garden and seized her cannabis plants in August 2002.

The Ninth Circuit ruled in December 2003 that the women's use of medicinal cannabis did not fall within the federal government's constitutional authority to regulate interstate commerce, since the marijuana was grown and used within California and was not bought or sold. In appealing that ruling, Department of Justice attorneys countered that drugs exist within a national market, and even non-commercial cultivation and distribution have an impact on the federal government's ability to control illegal drug use — an argument the high court accepted.

Despite the ruling, Raich remained defiant. "I will continue to use cannabis because, if I stopped using it, I would die," she told reporters Monday. "I'm going to have to be prepared to be arrested."

Unusual split

The Supreme Court split along liberal/conservative lines, but not in the way some had expected. Conservative Chief Justice William Rehnquist joined Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Clarence Thomas in voting to uphold the Ninth Circuit's ruling in favor of states' rights.

"The states' core police powers

have always included authority to define criminal law and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens," O'Connor wrote for the minority. "The home-grown cultivation and personal possession and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes has no apparent commercial character" and presents no threat to federal drug law enforcement. The court majority's broad definition of interstate commerce, she added, "threatens to sweep all of productive human activity into federal regulatory reach."

"[The decision] certainly breaks down some stereotypes about medical marijuana being some sort of a lefty-liberal issue," Marijuana Policy Project spokesman Bruce Mirken told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The three that voted to uphold the Ninth Circuit were ones you'd consider conservative. And from a conservative point of view, if you believe in limited federal government, they're right."

Federal officials were eager to praise Monday's ruling. "Today's decision marks the end of medical marijuana as a political issue," said drug czar John Walters of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. "Smoking illegal drugs may make some people feel better. However, civilized societies and modern day medical practices differentiate between inebriation and the safe, supervised delivery of proven medicine by legitimate doctors."

But medical cannabis supporters were just as quick to emphasize that the ruling leaves the status quo intact. The decision did not declare state medical cannabis laws unconstitutional, though the



Justice John Paul Stevens

high court majority clearly stated, "If there is any conflict between federal and state law, federal law shall prevail."

"According to the Supreme Court decision the federal government can prosecute medical marijuana patients. It does not say they must prosecute patients," Hilary McQuie of Americans for Safe Access told the *B.A.R.* "We hope [local] law enforcement understands they are still obligated to uphold state law."

Most local medical cannabis advocates predicted the ruling would not bring immediate major changes, since marijuana-related arrests and prosecutions are usually carried out by local and state, not federal, officials. But some expressed concern that the DEA may unleash a spate of raids against California patients and providers, as it did after the Supreme Court ruled in May 2001 that cannabis dispensaries could not use medical necessity as a defense against prosecution. As of press time, the Justice Department had not issued a statement about whether it plans to step up enforcement, although DEA spokesman Bill Grant said the agency has "never targeted the sick and dying, but rather criminals engaged in drug trafficking."

"We'll probably see some more arrests and prosecutions, but I don't think [the federal government] can go very far with it,"

Dale Gieringer of the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws told the *B.A.R.* "The court did not give any green light for widespread DEA prosecutions." Gieringer predicted the biggest risk was for patients and providers in conservative parts of the state where local law enforcement may call in the DEA. But, he added, "I would be shocked if this happened in the Bay Area."

Struggling in SF

In San Francisco, local officials are still trying to get a handle on the ramifications of Monday's ruling. "Everyone is trying to digest it," Deputy City Attorney Michael Weiss told the *B.A.R.* "We don't yet understand all the nuances."

It is not yet clear how the high court's decision might impact the city's ongoing effort to devise regulations governing the city's 40 or so medical marijuana dispensaries. The Board of Supervisors currently has a six-month moratorium in place prohibiting the opening of new cannabis outlets.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera issued a statement Monday saying that his office is committed to working "to determine if and to what extent there is any room left for local regulation to facilitate the compassionate use of medical marijuana in accordance with the law approved by California voters."

SF Department of Public Health spokeswoman Eileen Shields told the *B.A.R.* on Monday that the agency has no plans to discontinue its medical cannabis identification card program, which currently covers 8,200 patients.

"We are going to continue doing what we're doing," she said. Shields added that she does not yet know how the recent decision might affect plans to institute a statewide medical cannabis card by the end of the year.

Next steps

Though the justices ruled narrowly on the interstate commerce aspect of the *Raich* case, the long

delay in issuing their ruling and the wording of both the majority and dissenting opinions suggest they struggled with the larger issue of compassionate use of medical marijuana. Rehnquist, 80, is suffering from thyroid cancer and is expected to retire soon; several other justices have also had cancer. Although Raich and Monson raised the medical necessity issue in their initial lawsuit, neither the Ninth Circuit nor the Supreme Court addressed that issue.

"The case is made difficult by respondents' strong arguments that they will suffer irreparable harm because, despite a congressional finding to the contrary, marijuana does have valid therapeutic purposes," wrote Stevens for the majority. "The question before us, however, is not whether it is wise to enforce the statute in these circumstances," rather it is about Congress' "power to regulate interstate markets for medicinal substances."

"In his opinion, Justice Stevens stressed the need for medical marijuana patients to use the democratic process, putting the ball in Congress' court," said MPP's Rob Kampia. Advocates are increasingly emphasizing a legislative rather than a judicial strategy; national polls consistently show that a majority of the public supports medical marijuana. "It's up to the California congressional delegation to take the lead," said Mirken. "Our representatives should be protecting our patients."

MPP and ASA are asking supporters to lobby their legislators in favor of an amendment to the upcoming appropriations bill proposed by Dana Rohrabacher (R-California) and Maurice Hinchey (D-New York) that would prevent the federal government from spending funds to interfere with state medical marijuana laws; the bill may be voted on as soon as next week. Activists are also pressuring Congress to change the legal classification of marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II, and have petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to allow clinical trials of cannabis. ▼

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Marriage bill

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to move forward is a reversal of comments made by state Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), who told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a phone interview Friday, June 3 and in a *San Francisco Chronicle* story Saturday, June 4 that the issue of same-sex marriage was dead in Sacramento for this year.

"I thought we did brilliantly and came close. Next year we'll have a Senate bill and an Assembly bill," said Migden. "If we pass in the Senate first, it would enter the Assembly with a little more trajectory."

Asked about the bill's chances if introduced next year, Migden said, "I think we're in much better shape. I feel we're almost there." In an e-mail Wednesday, Migden voiced support for the decision to continue to push for passage of Leno's bill this session.

"This strategy (gut & amend) affords us another and a better chance of gaining legislative approval. No matter what happens I see this process as a string of hard fought victories; for example we turned one legislator to a yes vote, and the guy is a former prison guard from Richard Nixon's hometown of Whittier. We keep inching forward," she said, referring to Assemblyman Rudy Bernudez (D-Norwalk).

Leno insists this year is the



State Senator Carole Migden

best chance to pass the bill.

"It is not going to happen next year. It is an election year," he said. "It needs to happen this year."

Leno said he found one comment made by Migden in the *Chronicle* story encouraging. "She said, 'Definitely, we can pass this out of the Senate,' I agree," he said. Leno has the support of Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), who endorsed the gut and amend approach when asked about the strategy by the *B.A.R.*

"Whatever can be done, I am going to be supportive to ensure that my friends in the LGBT community are able to marry," said Yee. "I think, unfortunately, changes in civil rights in America is an incremental effort. Unfortu-

nately, we don't win it overnight."

Though Yee added, "Eventually, the LGBT community will have an opportunity to marry."

Yee also said he would "be honored" when asked about seeing his bill banning antigay tactics in political campaigns gutted to introduce the same-sex marriage legislation. Yee's bill has already passed the Assembly and is awaiting approval in the Senate.

"It is something Mark needs to decide what he would like to do. I am going to be supportive of whatever he wants to do," said Yee. "I co-sponsored the bill, I am a strong supporter of the bill, so whatever I can do to either resurrect it or gut and amend it I am there. I think it is all of us should be rallying around Mark to be supportive of him and find a solution so that civil rights will be given to the LGBT community, finally."

Weighing on Leno's determination to revive AB19, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, is the impact the measure's defeat may have on the state Supreme Court, which is set to rule on two gay rights cases this year and will ultimately rule on several gay marriage cases next year. Asked about fears defeat of AB19 in the Assembly could negatively sway how the justices rule in those cases, Leno said he couldn't argue with that supposition.

"There is credence to it," said Leno. "The justices are supposed

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Advocates say DP court battles won't hinder fight for marriage

by Zak Szymanski

The attorney representing the plaintiffs in the California Supreme Court case regarding a lesbian couple's right to receive spousal privileges at a country club said that previous news stories incorrectly implied that the lawsuit could hurt the case for gay marriage in the state.

The case — *Koebe v. Bernardo Heights Country Club* — was heard on May 26 in San Francisco, and centers around the club's refusal to grant domestic partners Birgit Koebe and Kendall French of San Diego all the same membership privileges it currently grants to spouses.

The court may decide to tackle the greater issue — whether marital status discrimination is illegal under California's Unruh Act, its nondiscrimination law for places of businesses — or it may decide to leave that issue alone and rule instead on whether Koebe and French should be considered spouses, particularly in light of the state's extensive domestic partner law under AB205.

Jon Davidson, legal director at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said that media stories about the hearing oversimplified any connections between this case and the same-sex marriage case currently making its way through the justice system. Those articles said that a narrow ruling in favor of the couple could bolster the state of California's claim that same-sex marriage is unnecessary because domestic partnership already offers the same protections.

What Davidson actually told reporters, he said, was that the brief filed by Attorney General Bill Lockyer in favor of the lesbian couple was not as friendly as it appeared, and that Lockyer's motivations likely were just further arguments that there were not many differences between domestic partnership and marriage, a position Lockyer has taken in the state's case against same-sex marriage.

But even if the court did rule that the lesbian couple should be treated as spouses, said Davidson, many LGBT legal protections would remain absent without the institution of marriage.

"The fact that same-sex couples can't get married isn't that serious according to the attorney general, because we're almost married," Davidson told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "If the state can say that businesses have to treat domestic partners the same as spouses, that's one fewer difference. But what I made very clear is that doesn't make same-sex couples married. Nobody's really confused about that. Ask any married couple if domestic partnership would fulfill their needs and they would say 'no.' There's a giant gulf between domestic partnership and marriage."

In the *Koebe* case, said Davidson, a victory "would narrow the difference somewhat" between domestic partnership and marriage, "but there would still be a difference."

Kate Kendall, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which filed an amicus

brief in the *Koebe* case, agreed that securing this legal victory for domestic partners would not harm the fight for marriage.

"The court could rule that this case is just a violation of AB205, to not permit this couple the same benefits. Could that then add some legitimacy to the attorney general's claim that we don't need to provide marriage to lesbian and gay couples because AB205 is equivalent? Well, sure, but that doesn't make it true," Kendall told the *B.A.R.*

Even if the court were to rule that domestic partners must be treated as spouses in matters of businesses, there would still be many laws and policies not addressed by the decision.

"It wouldn't solve the problem next page ►



Lambda Legal's Jon Davidson

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49ers video

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he "officiates" a same-sex wedding between two topless strippers. The tape also includes scenes insinuating the mayor takes kickbacks and spends taxpayer money on expensive meals. Newsom was highly critical of the tape last week, and couldn't even finish watching it, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which broke the story. Newsom had given permission to the 49ers to film part of the tape in his office, but was told it was for diversity training purposes and did not know the tape's contents.

The revelations about the training tape come after other high-profile incidents involving the 49ers. In addition to the homophobia that McLean experienced, in 2002 former running back Garrison Hearst made anti-gay comments that were widely publicized.

York told those in attendance that the tape "does not reflect the values of the 49ers or of my wife Denise and I."

"Mayor Gavin Newsom was offended and insulted and I cannot fathom how he feels about this," York said, adding that fans had been offended as well.

"We have got to do a better job. We've got to move forward. We're here to listen. We have zero tolerance for anything ridiculing our city or the entire Bay Area," said York. "While we do have diversity training in place, we recognize those have failed us in this incident."

"Our organization itself is very diverse. Again, I apologize for this very reprehensible video," York said.

Goines said the video was "insensitive and bad."

"The fact that it was made here in San Francisco in 2005 is reprehensible. It's almost inconceivable that it was made here. But it was made here and made by our organization," he said.

New council

Goines said that he would chair the new diversity council and would report directly to John and Denise York. In addition, well-known sports sociologist Dr. Harry Edwards would also serve on the advisory body. Others on the council would come from within the organization, he said.

Helen Carroll, with the Homophobia in Sport Project of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, attended the meeting and during a comment session, suggested that



Helen Carroll

others with knowledge of diversity issues would be a welcome addition to the council. Carroll, a former athletic director who has long been involved in collegiate sports, told York that such a council couldn't be effective if just made up of insiders.

"No disrespect to Dr. Edwards, but other people have been on the cutting edge of these issues," she said. "This video is going to be an example of what not to do and it's really disheartening the message it's going to send and we're going to have to spend a lot of time on

this."

She offered to help the team, and noted that changes must "be embraced from the top down."

Representatives from the San Francisco Human Rights Commission were also on hand. The 49ers are a city contractor, and Goines pointed out that the team was the first in the NFL to offer domestic partner benefits. The team complied with the city's equal benefits ordinance in the late 1990s that requires city contractors to offer the same benefits to domestic partners of employees as are offered to spouses of straight employees.

"We're very concerned with recent events," HRC Director Virginia Harmon said. She added that HRC had worked with the team before, after the Hearst incident.

HRC is conducting its own investigation into the matter.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, an HRC commissioner, brought up the cultural aspect of the 49ers in relation to the community, and the cultural understanding of what's acceptable. He wondered how many people were involved in the production of the tape, and suggested that the team's public behavior masks a deep lack of respect for diversity.

"As long as you conform in public, you can get away with [stuff] in private," Kahn said.

The 49ers brass also heard from speakers who were concerned about how women were portrayed in the video.

Irma Herrera, executive director of Equal Rights Advocates, said the women in the video were "used as sex objects."

"Sports members need to set an example," said Herrera, the mother of a 12-year-old athlete.

Phil Ting, executive director of the Asian Law Caucus, said he and others in the Asian community were concerned about the mockery exhibited in the tape. Others in the Asian community who attended the meeting prodded the 49ers to hold a meeting in Chinatown.

Calvin Gipson, a "proud gay black man," said "I'd like to see the 49ers actively support same-sex marriage in the state — domestic partnerships are no longer good enough."

David Salniker, with the Equal Justice Society, said that there was no "quick fix" to the problem.

"This is a three to five year process," he said, "We're here to monitor that process and partner with that process. We're here to cooperate and challenge." ▼

Marriage bill

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to be operating free of any political consideration. But they are human beings and we know that the actions of the Legislature will be noticed by our justices."

The Assembly twice voted down Leno's bill, first on Wednesday, June 1 with 35 lawmakers in support and 37 opposed. After a lobbying blitz by Leno, Migden, LGBT activists, and gay rights supporters, lawmakers voted on the measure a second time Thursday, June 2. But with only 37 votes in support, the measure failed to gain the necessary 41 votes for passage. Seven lawmakers did not vote and 36 cast no votes to help defeat the bill.

The nearly equal for and against votes for the bill mirror the public's views on same-sex marriage, said Kors. He added that the final tally should also send a strong message to the Supreme Court justices, whose role he said is ultimately to strike down unconstitutional laws.

"It is the legislators' role to fix discriminatory laws. But their failure to do so should not be interpreted by the court as any type of message that it is okay to allow unconstitutional laws to stand," said Kors. "If anything, more members voted for it than against it. That should signal to the court there isn't wide spread opposition to marriage equality."

In addition to holding those Democrats who did not vote for AB19 accountable, Kors said the LGBT community must hold itself accountable for defeat of the measure.

"I think our community has to take some of the responsibility. If we claim to take responsibility for the 37 members who voted for us, we have to take responsibility for those who didn't," said Kors. "We have got to be stronger and we need our coalition partners in those areas to work with us in continuing to do the education work that is necessary."

The defeat of AB19 last week broke through Leno's normally cool and calm demeanor. His anger could be seen, a rarity for the polished politician.

"If this body can't pass AB19, it should clarify its position and say we do believe that gay and lesbian couples are second-class citizens," Leno told reporters after the final vote. "That is the statement that's been made tonight."

By Monday Leno had regained his composure, though he acknowledged the first two days of June "were tough. We came heart breakingly close."

"It was a strange twist to a 48-hour lobbying blitz by me and Equality California," added Leno.

"Of course looking at the situation positively, we made enormous progress and we surprised a lot of people in that we came as far as we did. And of course there is no admitting defeat. We will go forward and finally pass this. Hopefully, this year."

As for which bill will be gutted, that remains to be seen. Kors said he would like to see Yee's bill passed and suggested one option is using a duplicate bill, where the same legislation was introduced in both chambers.

Leno stressed, "We can find a vehicle."

While he said the term gut and amend "is not very enticing," he noted the process would not be done behind closed doors in the final days of the legislative session. Instead, there is enough time to fully hear the matter in the Senate.

"We are in the middle of the legislative year where we are now having full public hearings. Everything will occur in the bright light of day," said Leno. "Nothing disparaging can be said of the process." ▼

DP court battles

◀ previous page

that remains, which is that domestic partnership is a second status, and it is very problematic to reconcile that new and different status with laws that are only used to dealing with marriage," said Kendall.

Even if the court were to decide that all marital status discrimination was illegal under the Unruh Act, said Kendall, "Eliminating marital status discrimination in country club memberships does nothing to help the vast majority of working poor and working class lesbian and gay couples who labor every day without the safety net of protection that marriage

provides. And rather than try to address that discrimination on a case by case, situation by situation basis, the best and most plausible option is to simply say that lesbian and gay couples can marry."

One place where the case may see some outside influence is in the state Legislature's current attempt to amend the Unruh Act to make clear that marital status discrimination is illegal. AB1400, by Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), amends the Unruh Act to clarify that people are protected from discrimination regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status or familial status.

"The timing is interesting," said Davidson. "Will that pass first, or will the court rule first?

We don't know."

If the Legislature acts first, said Davidson, the court likely will take notice. The bill has already passed the Assembly, and further progress could persuade the court to rule that marital discrimination is illegal under the Unruh Act.

Alternatively, if the court were to leave the Unruh question alone, or rule that the act does not prohibit marital status discrimination, Davidson said legislators would be undeterred and would clarify once and for all that the Unruh Act should and does prohibit discrimination against a variety of unnamed classes and categories.

"I've argued that they thought that's what the law was all along," said Davidson. ▼



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June Philomeni/Cleland

Kent Tool of Ruby's Clay Studio has pride to spare – the studio opens a special exhibit June 15.

Ceramics studio hosts Pride show

by Tyson Gillfillan

Tucked away on an unobtrusive residential block of Noe Street, Castro visitors and even longtime residents could easily miss Ruby's Clay Studio, where for nearly 40 years ceramic artists have gathered to share resources, expertise, and inspiration.

Hoping to increase visibility and attract some of the crowds drawn to the Castro during San Francisco's LGBT Pride celebration, Ruby's storefront gallery and maze of working studio space will be devoted to its first ever Pride Exhibition and Open Studios from June 15 through July 5.

Conceived by artist Kent Tool, who has been active with the non-profit workshop for 10 years, this special group show will feature work representing the diversity of Ruby's artists, their styles, and techniques.

"Visitors can expect to see an enormous variety of ceramic art," said Tool. "We'll have functional as well as decorative work, pieces for the garden and home, and everything from very traditional arts-and-crafts oriented pieces to funky, creative, and cutting edge works." He estimated most works to be available for sale in the \$35 - \$250 range.

For the exhibition, Tool organized a competition among Ruby's members juried by experts from the Oakland Museum of California and the California College of the Arts. Ten artists were chosen among 28 hopefuls to display their work in the gallery space, while an estimated 20-30 will be showing pieces in their individual studio spaces at Ruby's. Visitors can walk through the studio, interact with working artists, and shop for one-of-a-kind pieces. Cliff's Variety has also become involved, devoting some of their Castro Street window space to the work of five Ruby's artists.

"Because of the studio's close proximity to the heart of the Castro, we thought Pride would be a

good opportunity to increase visibility, and invite locals and out-of-towners to come in and visit the gallery and studio space," said Tool.

Tool said he also wanted to offer an opportunity for visitors to learn about the studio's community outreach efforts, including a constant rotation of ceramics classes and programs providing technical assistance and studio space to schools and community centers, as well as organizations that help underserved populations.

"At its core, Ruby's fosters a community of artists by providing services that are low-cost enough so that people who otherwise wouldn't be able to work so intensely in ceramics can do so," said studio manager Andrew DeWitt. "We serve a very broad community, including a lot from the GLBT community by virtue of our location."

Tool estimates that about half of the 100-plus artists at Ruby's are gay, and said the Pride show will present a mix of gay and straight artists, showcasing the diversity of the group.

"The Pride show will be an interesting and eclectic mix of styles that represent the great mix of artists working here," said Barbara Vanderbeck, whose ceramic garden sculptures will be part of the gallery exhibition.

For Vanderbeck and her fellow artists, increased foot traffic could result in increased sales of their work, although organizers plan to measure success by greater recognition of the active role Ruby's plays in the community, rather than volume of sales.

"This is a great opportunity for new people to meet Ruby's and see our work," said Tool. "Hopefully we can do this every year." ▼

Ruby's Clay Studio is located at 552A Noe Street, between 18th and 19th. The Pride Exhibition and Open Studios will be open to the public June 15 through

July 5, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information, visit www.rubyclaystudio.org or call (415) 558-9819.

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KRON nixes Ammiano as parade anchor

by Zak Szymanski

KRON-4 television has refused to allow Supervisor Tom Ammiano to co-host the broadcast of San Francisco's LGBT Pride Parade on the grounds that the station "does not want to politicize the parade," according to Pat Patton, vice president of programming.

The station, which has an agreement with the San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee to air the annual event, has opted for openly gay San Francisco Police Officer Lenny Broberg to provide the on-air commentary instead.

The situation arose because the parade's usual broadcast co-host, Donna Sachet, could not perform her duties due to her election as a parade grand marshal this year. Sachet reportedly recommended Broberg to KRON. Meanwhile, Pride discussed its options, according to Pride President Joey Cain, and decided to ask Ammiano if he was interested.

"I was very happy. I love doing that stuff. It's natural to me," said Ammiano, who also has a career as a stand-up comedian and is termed out of office in 2008.

Some wires were crossed, said

Cain, explaining that potential co-anchors were contacted by Pride or KRON prematurely.

But KRON put its foot down when it came to giving free airtime to a sitting politician, citing potential conflicts and concerns that "I have to admit, kind of made sense to me," said Cain, who added that Pride did not have a problem with Broberg's selection and that he was always on Pride's list of potential co-anchors.

"Tom would have done a fine job I'm sure. But it doesn't have so much to do with Tom as it does with a politician in general," said KRON's Patton. "Politicians by their very nature have supporters and detractors and we didn't want someone as a part of our anchor team that might politicize the parade in some way."

But some community members find fault with that reasoning, noting that Pride is inherently political, as is having a police officer as the parade host, particularly given the community's own history of protests against SFPD, including some demonstrations during past parades.

"I've always viewed Pride as an inherently political event. It's a response to discrimination and hate violence that queer people experi-



Supervisor Tom Ammiano

enced, and the fact that we're out is a political act, especially now in this right-wing climate," said LGBT activist Shawna Virago. "No matter who the emcee, they are going to have detractors and supporters. Given that the police have been targets of various protests during Pride, I find the choice of a police officer as the TV co-host a far more political gesture than having Tom Ammiano in that same chair."

Broberg, however, disagreed, and said that having a police offi-

cer host an event that grew out of resistance to police violence against LGBT people is actually quite appropriate.

"It shows that we're finally coming full circle. We have police departments working with the community and recruiting within the GLBT community and providing sensitivity training on matters related to the community. We have a transgender person on the Police Commission and I think that's probably a first for the country," said Broberg, who noted that he represents a broad segment of the community due to his activism and experience in leather, athletic, and fundraising circles.

Broberg also said he intends to offer fair commentary to all constituents in the parade, even those who traditionally are at odds with police officers.

"To be honest there are times I'm conflicted, and when I'm on both sides of the fence. So to sit there and be objective is not a problem for me because there are many times when my own life requires me to be objective," said Broberg. "This job will be about telling people what various groups are and what they do for their community."

Broberg said he believes that

he, like Sachet, can provide the parade commentary with dignity. The program is broadcast to the entire Bay Area, he said, and it's important that people outside of the city be able to connect with images not usually associated with the parade.

"It gives people an opportunity to say, 'Hey there's something there for me in the parade' and realize that not everyone has to do all the outrageous stuff," said Broberg.

Ammiano emphasized that his frustration is not due to Broberg or not getting the gig, but to the ways in which an outside entity seems to be defining what is appropriate for the LGBT community.

"Whose parade is this anyway? If it's our parade, should we be told who can do what?" said Ammiano. "Somehow the process has gotten co-opted here."

But Broberg expressed concern that anything potentially divisive was being expressed at all.

"If our community wants to fight about this, KRON doesn't need to have anyone from our community there," said Broberg. "If we make this a big issue, they might just say, 'We'll just use our straight news anchor.' And then all of us lose." ▼

Fruit flies, genes, and sexual orientation

by Bob Roehr

A single gene is responsible for mating actions and sexual orientation in *Drosophila*, that bountiful font of genetic research known as the common fruit fly.

A pair of articles in the June 3 issue of the journal *Cell* powerfully reinforces the case for the innate biological nature of sexual orien-

tation. After all, distant mothers, weak fathers, "recruitment," and embracing Jesus are not major factors in shaping the "impressionable" fly pupa.

Through a complex series of gene splicing and breeding they generated lines of fruit flies that carried one of the four distinct variants of fru, and then they observed their behavior.

They found that the male flies with the female variant of the fru

gene were significantly less likely to court and breed with females than were the males with the other variants of the gene; and they were more likely to engage in courtship behavior with other males.

Among female flies, those with the male version of the gene were significantly less likely to mate with "normal" male flies, while more than 40 percent of them engaged in male courtship behavior—a ritualistic series of wing beatings and body lickings prior to copulation—with "normal" females.

The researchers carefully examined the bodies of the fly lines and could discern no physical changes that might explain these actions. The flies in every way looked like males and females of

the species should look, but they did not behave the same as their sexual features would indicate.

The second paper looked at neurons in the fly brain that have been associated with the fru gene. It said, "We could not detect any major anatomical differences in this circuit that might explain the different sexual behaviors of males and females, suggesting that the essential difference between the sexes lies in the functioning of this circuit, not its construction."

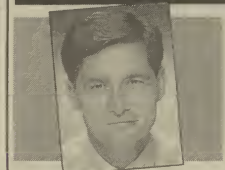
The research also showed how male- and female-specific pheromones—a chemical signaling system that parallels the sense of smell, is wired to the most primitive portion of the brain, and regulates sexual attraction—

can be affected by male and female fru genetic variants.

Dickson said, "We have shown that a single gene in the fruit fly is sufficient to determine all aspects of the flies' sexual orientation and behavior." Their findings demonstrate that instinctive behavior can be regulated by the same genetic forces that regulate height or eye color.

"The notion of a behavioral switch gene implies that at least some instinctive behaviors develop according to the familiar genetic logic of morphological [body] development," Dickson said. The research does not deny the role of other genes and the environment in strengthening or weakening the influence of that gene in developing patterns of behavior. ▼

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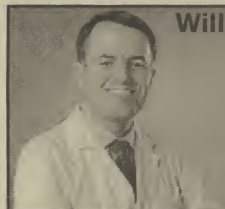


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SF cops

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She said the civility of the meeting struck here as another example of how the police and LGBT community here "seem more together. They work together."

The British pair has also been asking people on the street in the Castro how they regard the local cops.

"A lot of people said they think they're great, especially the business people," said Timerick.

Since arriving, the two Brits have met with staffers at Community United Against Violence, attended a meeting of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, and sat in on a transgender training for local police. They will be meeting with gay youth agencies and both gay members of the Board of Supervisors, Bevan Dufty and Tom Ammiano.

They have noticed some differences between the two cities. Andrews noticed right away the change in the gay scene due to the legal drinking limit being 21 here and 18 in the U.K.

"It is quite a different gay scene back home, a much younger crowd goes out," he said. "Here, I've even been asked for I.D."

After visiting the Café, Timerick said she liked how the club attracts both men and women. "We don't have that at home," she said.

Andrews has been on the force 12 years. While he said he is the only out sergeant he knows of in his area, he isn't worried about advancement, something that has been an issue for gay men in San Francisco's department.

"We don't have that ceiling like here," he said. "In London, the deputy assistant police commissioner, the third highest ranking police officer in the country, is an out gay man."

Visiting in the midst of the police department's annual recruitment drive, the pair said they were impressed with how proactive the cops are at finding gay men and women to join the force. The department sets up a table on weekends in the heart of the Castro to attract potential recruits.

"We are also very active during Pride but not throughout the whole year," said Andrews. "It is something we should be doing

more proactively."

One tactic that pops out for Timerick is bringing youth offenders of hate crimes to meet people from the communities they targeted. Watching a video of the Castro police introducing homophobic young people to members of the LGBT community, "you saw a shift in their attitudes," said Timerick.

"It is something we could look into," added Andrews.

Another idea they intend to jump the pond with is the pink whistles campaign, where members of the LGBT community are given whistles to use in the case of being attacked.

"We do have violent crime in the gay village. People are specifically targeting them," said Andrews.

They have also been impressed with the LGBT Community Center, which Andrews said, "We have nothing like it at home."

He also liked the idea behind the Castro Country Club, which offers a safe, supportive space for people in the recovery community. "There are no sober spaces. We have coffee shops but nothing like that," said Andrews. ▼

Dyke March implements changes

by Matthew S. Bajko

Faced with neighborhood complaints and police concerns about drinking, organizers of the Dyke March and rally in Dolores Park are implementing new policies at this year's event.

For the first time, the committee that oversees the annual gathering has applied for a sound permit and is paying \$200 to the city's Recreation and Park Department to hire a gardener to repair any damage the event causes in the park. Organizers have also doubled the number of portable toilets for the event, are purchasing about 25 walkie-talkies to improve communication, and are increasing the number of security volunteers.

"There is a neighborhood

group around Dolores Park who has caused some grief. They don't want the Dyke March to happen at the park anymore. They have put a lot of pressure on the city to not make it happen," said organizer Mo Kalman, who did not know the name of any organized group against the march. "Now this year for the first time the city is insisting we pay for a gardener person. Also, we've had to get a sound permit, which we've never had to do before."

An all-volunteer committee produces the Dyke March, now in its 13th year, and the rally in the park costs several thousand dollars. The added expenses this year, said Kalman, "make it more difficult for us to have this event when it brings a lot to the city. There are thousands of people who come just for this event who otherwise

might not even attend Pride."

Attendees are asked to make donations to help cover expenses, while the march receives city funding through the Grants for the Arts Program. However, the Dyke March historically has received the smallest grant of any group, said Kalman. This year, the city has given it \$4,800.

Kalman said she did reach out earlier this year to Supervisor Bevan Dufty, whose district covers Dolores Park. On February 4, Kalman sent Dufty a letter detailing her concerns about the amount of the march's grant and complaints from the neighborhood.

"I have written Supervisor Dufty a letter about this to try to get some help. I also asked why the city is not giving the dykes more money even though we do this

huge cultural event and generate all this tourism," she said. "He didn't get back to me."

Asked about Kalman's letter, Dufty said it was the first he had heard of it and that he "was sorry" to have missed it. In regard to the Grants to the Arts, he said, "I am happy to talk to them about the coming fiscal year."

As for the park, he said he has been aware about the neighbors' complaints about overuse of the park and lack of upkeep.

"There are issues with Dolores Park. It is one of the most constantly used parks for large demonstrations," said Dufty. "Rec and park is under great financial distress so it doesn't surprise me

they are making sure the park is left in good repair."

Dufty pledged to contact the organizers this week to ensure any problems remaining with this year's event had been solved.

"I don't want to see them facing any hardship and I certainly will reach out to make sure everything goes smoothly," he said.

Organizers say they are all set for this year's rally and march. As always, men are welcome but are asked to watch from the sidelines along the march route.

"We are looking forward to a very large, very fun, and very safe Dyke March celebration and rally," said organizer Fresh! White. ▼

Pink Saturday

◀ page 3

loween, merchants had expected the police would not implement such restrictions on events like Pink Saturday, which are mostly attended by the LGBT community. In a sign of one merchant's anger at the proposed policy change, he reportedly ripped up a check he had planned to give to the Sisters to help pay for portable toilets at this year's event.

The growing anger among merchants prompted the police, including Mission Station Captain John Goldberg, to attend MUMC's June 2 meeting to clarify their position. Goldberg stressed that the police were not going to enforce a dry policy at Pink Saturday. However, he said that as with years past, the police would not allow glass bottles in the crowd and asked merchants selling liquor that night to use plastic cups. He also asked those attending the parties to "police yourselves" and "designate a driver" that night.

Sister Roxanne Roles, who chairs the board overseeing Pink Saturday, praised the police for their reversal.

"The Sisters are very relieved that the police will not be seen as enforcers at this event. It is up to the entire community to provide safety for each other," she said. "The Sisters are really interested in having the police be there as our heroes to protect us, not to be seen as enforcers."

Organizers of the Dyke March said they are also pleased to hear of the police's change in policy.

"We are definitely happy to hear the police will be stepping back. It sounded like they would be walking around taking stuff from people," said Fresh! White, a Dyke March committee member.

But White and other Dyke

March organizers refute the police's contentions that attendees of their event led to problems at the Pink party.

"We don't know what the cops are talking about. I think it is a bunch of crap, frankly," said Dyke March committee member Mo Kalman. "I don't believe there is any truth to what they are saying that the problems in the Castro emanates with the Dyke March. People have access to booze at that party and that is where they get pumped up. There is no proof that people at the Dyke March got loaded."

However, Rubino said there were issues of some people drinking to excess in the park.

"We need to curb some of the drinking that goes on over there. Some people passed out due to too much alcohol last year," he said. "Those are the minority, not the majority of people we have to deal with. We want to get the message out to that minority. If people in the crowd are unable to take care of themselves, we don't want them to be a problem later on and we will address them accordingly."

While city policy prohibits drinking in the park, Rubino said the police are not looking to enforce the ban. Instead, they want people to drink responsibly.

"We are not going to grab beer out of people's hand. We don't want to come in with the attitude of no drinking and just enforce it. It is our prerogative; we haven't done it in the past and we don't want to start," he said. "At the same time, we don't want people coming with wagons of six packs on top of six packs and being in a total drunken state once they get into the Castro area."

Community leaders do fault the police, who agree with the criticism, for waiting until a month prior to Pride to raise concerns with the community and asked them to instead have a debriefing after this year's event to

discuss any concerns.

"If the police get reports of problems, they have to take action. We completely understand for the need of police to bring this issue to us," said Roles. "It didn't make sense that it happened a month before the event. But we understand the police need to react to changes in the climate of the event."

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who said he only learned of the police's meeting after the fact, said he was surprised to hear there were issues at Pride last year and of a need to enforce a ban on drinking.

"I have never been approached by the police that there were more emergency calls and arrests last year. It was a surprise to MUMC, the Sisters, and myself that this needed to be changed so dramatically," said Dufty. "Pink Saturday has been run successfully with a lot of care and management by the Sisters over the years. I wasn't believing it needed to be dramatically changed."

After the MUMC meeting Dufty said, "I appreciate the captain's recognition that this wasn't communicated well."

Patrick Batt, a MUMC board member, sent out a letter to merchants this week explaining what he called a "clarification" of the police's policy. MUMC President Paul Moffett said he is pleased with the police's change in tone and stressed it is up to the community to ensure no problems arise at this year's party.

"We are very privileged to have this kind of event in our neighborhood and it is up to all of us—business owners as well as residents—to take care of that privilege, and fortunately, we have a good rapport with the SFPD," he said. "The community needs to use common sense and not to sell to someone obviously intoxicated and no glass or cans. If they are selling, use plastic." ▼

testicles. "Fucking balls," Magidson reportedly said. Nabors said Magidson then put Araujo in a chokehold and appeared to be applying force to her throat. A couple of times, said Nabors, Cazares intervened and told Magidson to stop, as did Manny Merel, Jose's brother, who was also at the house. At some point, most of the group ended up in the living room, with Merel and Magidson slapping Araujo, then Merel breaking into "a jog," said Nabors, retrieving a can of vegetables from the kitchen, and smashing it on top of Araujo's skull. At this point,

said Nabors, Araujo appeared to be bleeding. Merel broke into another jog and soon returned with a frying skillet, which he also swung against Araujo's head. Cazares asked Magidson for his car keys, then asked Nabors to join him for a ride. When Nabors asked where they were going, he said, Cazares responded, "We're going to get some shovels because they're going to kill that bitch." Throughout the attack, Nabors said he could recall Araujo saying only one thing. "She said, 'Please don't. I have a family,'" Nabors said. ▼

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Araujo retrial

◀ page 2

with her burial—testified on his own behalf.

On Tuesday, June 7, Nabors described for the court how the violence played out in the Merel home after Araujo's genitals were revealed. Merel was visibly upset, he said, crying and saying, "I can't be fucking gay." Araujo was in the doorway of the bathroom and Magidson reached out and pulled her to the ground, then pulled her underwear to the side to reveal

Lost in authorization

by Andrew Hughes

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with AIDS.

Dear ALRP:

I get my medical insurance through Medi-Cal. I need some medications, but my doctor says I can't get them until she sends in something called a TAR and Medi-Cal says okay. What's she talking about? I need my AIDS drugs now!

Over My Head in TAR

Dear Over My Head:

Your doctor is talking about Medi-Cal's Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) procedure, which physicians must follow to prescribe certain medications. Here's how it works:

TAR application process

A TAR is an application asking Medi-Cal to cover certain drugs and medical procedures that it does not cover automatically. If

the drug your doctor wants to prescribe is on Medi-Cal's "List of Contract Drugs," s/he does not need to complete a TAR. A physician can (usually) just prescribe the drug, and Medi-Cal will pay for it automatically. It should be noted, however, that some drugs on the list can only be prescribed for certain people or diseases (e.g., birth control pills for women).

For medications not on the list of contracted drugs, Medi-Cal requires "prior authorization" before issuing payment. Your physician or pharmacist will need to complete a TAR for Medi-Cal's review. Medi-Cal will then approve the request, deny the request, or ask for more information.

What happens if my TAR is denied, but I really need that drug?

You can file an appeal with Medi-Cal. If you were previously approved for the drug and were

denied reauthorization of your treatment, you can continue to receive the drug while your appeal is pending under a temporary extension called "aid paid pending." Please note that this extension is only available if you filed your reauthorization request within 10 working days of the end of your previous authorization period, so be sure to submit your application on time.

Unfortunately, if your physician is submitting a TAR for the first time for your requested drug, Medi-Cal has no obligation to pay for the requested drug during the appeal process. Consequently, you will have to either get the drug through another source (like the AIDS Drugs Assistance Program) or wait until Medi-Cal has finalized your appeal. The appeals process may last as long as several weeks.

Retroactive authorization by physician

Generally, a physician cannot

prescribe a drug and later send Medi-Cal a TAR. Medi-Cal permits retroactive authorizations only under very limited circumstances. Limited circumstances cover situations that prevented a proper TAR submission and were beyond your physician's control (e.g., natural disasters). Since physicians understand the difficulty in obtaining retroactive authorization, they are unlikely to prescribe a drug without Medi-Cal's approval. There are special rules for emergency hospitalization and treatment, but these will not apply to most HIV medications.

Help with the appeals process

If the Medi-Cal appeals process confuses you and you don't know what to do, ask for help. You can contact one of the many Bay Area agencies that provide public benefits advocacy. If you are HIV-positive, the Positive Resource Center or the AIDS Legal Referral Panel may be able to help you navigate the process. If you are not sure which organization would best suit your needs, ask friends for re-

errals, check the Internet, or call a known service organization for guidance.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This column is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Andrew Hughes is a law clerk at ALRP. Do you have any legal questions? Call ALRP at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353; or write: 1663 Mission Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94103. For specific questions regarding housing call (415) 701-1200, ext. 314. To find out more about ALRP visit the Web site at www.alrp.org.

The workplace gets better for LGBT Americans, HRC report says

by Bob Roehr

Political losses at the ballot box on marriage have not slowed the progress made by LGBT Americans in the workplace. More companies are embracing nondiscrimination policies and offering benefits to gay families than ever before.

That became clear with release of the sixth annual "State of the Workplace" report from the Human Rights Campaign at a June 6 news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

"Corporate America knows that fair treatment is not just the right thing to do—it's good for the bottom line," said HRC President Joe Solomonese. "Nondiscrimina-

tion policies and equal employee benefits help recruit and retain the best talent while improving productivity by ensuring that all of their employees can provide for their families."

Daryl Herrschaft, who wrote the report, said that 43 percent of the Fortune 500 companies now offer domestic partner benefits, "10 times the number of companies that offered them just a decade ago." Another 14 of those companies have announced that they will begin offering benefits within the next year.

Health benefits are seen as the most important piece but the package of other benefits also is growing for LGBT employees. At least 83 leading companies now make no distinction between heterosexual and homosexual families in terms of all of their benefits policies.

Transgender persons have seen the greatest increase of protections with companies adding "terms such as gender identity and gender expression in their nondiscrimination policies at a pace never before seen," Herrschaft said. In 2004, 51 Fortune 500 companies had such protections in place, an 89 percent increase over the previous year.

"I transitioned from Mark to Margaret three years ago," said



Margaret Stumpp

Margaret Stumpp, senior vice president and chief investment officer of Prudential Financial Inc. "For those of you who don't know ... it's really about a person's spirit and sense of self. It has more to do with aligning one's personal presentation with their own internal spirit."

Stumpp said there was some trepidation at the company when she announced her decision, but senior level executives used it as an opportunity to learn more about the issues and "everyone was uniformly supportive." It became "essentially a non-event."

John D. Hassell, director of federal and state government affairs at Hewlett-Packard, said, "Companies and states that do not recognize diversity deprive themselves of the creativity and the productivity" of those potential employees.

He said it was not surprising that the most innovative and fastest growing companies generally have been the ones that have led in recognizing and celebrating diversity.

Solomonese said, "It is time for our political leaders to follow their own favorite mantra, 'what is good for business is good for America,'" and enact similar protections and benefits for all Americans.

HRC is discussing with congressional allies the introduction of several pieces of legislation that will advance these goals. Past efforts have included the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and a measure proposed by Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) to extend domestic partner benefits to federal employees. ▼

The State of the Workplace reports for 2004 and previous years can be downloaded at www.hrc.org.

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Memorial Monday for George Roosen

by Cynthia Laird

A memorial service will be held Monday, June 13 for George Roosen, a longtime gay rights activist, who died April 18 at Davies Medical Center in San Francisco. Mr. Roosen had suffered from cancer and was 81.

Mr. Roosen had long been involved in New Leaf: Services for Our Community's Outreach to El-



ders program (formerly Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders) and was one of the people involved in helping New Leaf become the first agency in the country to receive federal funding specifically for gay and lesbian seniors. He was director emeritus of the senior group

and facilitated a support group.

Born June 18, 1923, Mr. Roosen received his bachelor's degree in art history from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1951.

Monday's memorial takes place at 3 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in the fourth floor ceremonial room. For more information, call John Land at (415) 626-7000, ext. 408. ▼

Activist Jean O'Leary dies

by Cynthia Laird

Lesbian activist, former nun, and Democratic Party leader Jean O'Leary died Saturday, June 4 at the San Clemente, California home of Lisa Phelps, her partner of 12 years, and surrounded by her family and close friends. Ms. O'Leary, who had been battling lung cancer for two years, was 57.

Ms. O'Leary was an advocate for the rights of gays and lesbians, women and people with HIV/AIDS as well as a prominent Democratic Party activist. Over the course of a 35-year career, she ran several national gay rights groups, including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; co-founded pioneering organizations, including Lesbian Feminist Liberation and National Coming Out Day; and worked to elect Democratic candidates.

"I am proud to have been with Jean during the last 12 years of her life," Phelps said in a statement, "and I am proud of Jean's political accomplishments. She set an example of community involvement for our 15-year-old daughter Victoria and instilled in her the importance of political activism."

Born March 4, 1948, in Kingston, New York, Ms. O'Leary grew up mostly in Ohio. She used the occasion of her high school graduation speech in 1966 to announce her entry into the Sisters of the Holy Humility convent. In a 1984 anthology, *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence*, Ms. O'Leary said she joined the convent because "there was no antiwar movement, no women's movement, no gay movement in Ohio in 1966" and that she "wanted to do something special, to have an impact on the world."

She graduated from Cleveland State University with a degree in psychology in 1970, left the convent, and became the drummer for a girl band, "The Satin Dolls." Soon thereafter, she packed up her drums and moved to New York to pursue doctoral studies in organizational development at Yeshiva University. She became enmeshed in the burgeoning gay and lesbian rights movement, attending the political meetings and social events at the Firehouse, and joining the Gay Activists Alliance and driving once a week to Albany to lobby state legislators on gay issues.

In 1972, frustrated with the sexism of the male-dominated GAA, she founded Lesbian Feminist Liberation, taking most of the women from GAA with her and establishing one of the first organized lesbian voices within the women's movement. Two years later, Ms. O'Leary and Bruce Voeller, executive director of what was then called the National Gay Task Force, negotiated an agreement for co-gender management of the national gay movement and Ms. O'Leary joined Voeller as co-executive director of the organization.

Matt Foreman, current director of NGLTF, called Ms. O'Leary a "lifelong champion in the fight for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people."

Feminist leader Gloria Steinem, who worked often with Ms. O'Leary, issued this statement: "Jean O'Leary was a link of kindness and humanity and inclusive politics who helped the women's movement to recognize the universal cost of homophobia, and the gay movement to see that



Jean O'Leary

marginalizing the voices of lesbians would only diminish its power. I know she will be with us as long as we remember what she taught us, but I and thousands of others will always miss her spirit."

In her role at NGTF, and through her close friendship with presidential adviser Midge Costanza, in 1977 Ms. O'Leary organized the historic first-ever meeting of gay rights advocates in the White House. She was also the first openly gay person appointed to a presidential commission, by President Jimmy Carter, who appointed her to the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year. In that role, she negotiated the inclusion of gay and lesbian rights on the agenda of the International Women's Year conference held in Houston in 1979.

"I will always remember Jean's first call to me at the White House requesting a meeting with the president," Costanza, who was with Ms. O'Leary at the time of her death, said. "With the courage and tenacity so typical of Jean, she demanded that I hold a meeting in the White House to discuss federal government policies that specifically discriminated against gays and lesbians. Her arguments were persuasive and I scheduled the meeting for March 26, 1977. Because of this historic gathering of gay and lesbian leaders in the White House, a national discussion was held to review and begin to correct the antigay policies by federal government agencies. Many changes were made, and many doors were opened as a result of Jean's perseverance."

Ms. O'Leary was also active in Democratic Party politics, including her election in 1976 as the first-ever openly lesbian delegate to a national political convention. She served on the Democratic National Committee for 12 years, including eight on that group's executive committee, the first openly gay or lesbian person to serve in that capacity. In 2004, Senator Diane Feinstein (California) appointed Ms. O'Leary an at-large member of the California Democratic State Committee.

Ms. O'Leary spent most of the 1980s building a local San Francisco group, Gay Rights Advocates, into one of the largest national gay and lesbian activist organizations, National Gay Rights Advocates. As head of NGRA, Ms. O'Leary pursued "impact litigation" and won important victories protecting gay people from discrimination in employment, housing, and other areas. In 1985, NGRA became one of the first ad-

vocacy organizations to focus on the legal and civil liberties ramifications of the AIDS epidemic.

Sean Strub, founder of *Poz* magazine, said, "Jean's activism spanned so many movements: the women's movement, gay and lesbian rights, AIDS activism as well as Democratic Party politics. Her early AIDS activism through NGRA, particularly in expediting access to new treatments, saved many lives. Her passing is a loss for all people who are ill, disadvantaged or suffering and all people who treasure justice."

"Jean taught gay men about feminism, she taught lesbians about AIDS, she taught feminists about gay and lesbian issues and she taught Democrats about everything. She personified the use of power with grace and purpose," said Bob Hattoy, a Democratic Party and AIDS activist who spoke at the 1992 Democratic National Convention.

In 1987, the *Los Angeles Times* referred to Ms. O'Leary's group as "aggressive defenders of the rights of AIDS patients" and noted litigation against the several federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, which NGRA initiated to expedite and broaden the access of people with HIV to promising new treatments.

In founding National Coming Out Day with psychologist Rob Eichberg in 1987, Ms. O'Leary noted that "...coming out is critically important to our community and to our movement. Our invisibility is the essence of our oppression. And until we eliminate that invisibility, people are going to be able to perpetuate the lies and myths about gay people."

The Human Rights Campaign, which now produces National Coming Out Day, also mourned the death of Ms. O'Leary. "She recognized the enormous power that visibility could have in the fight for equal rights. We are deeply saddened by her loss," said HRC President Joe Solmonese.

In recent years, Ms. O'Leary, with her business partner, Palm Springs City Council member Ginny Foat, ran a consulting firm specializing in voter contact and candidate consulting. In addition to her life partner Lisa Phelps, and their daughter Victoria, she is survived by their son David DeMaria, his life partner James Springer, and their son Aiden DeMaria. She is also survived by her brothers, Jim O'Leary and Ken O'Leary; sister Diane Urig; and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service, to be held at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, is being planned. ▼

Harold "Hal" Anderson
May 15, 1917 — May 25, 2005



Hal passed away in his sleep 10 days after celebrating his 88th birthday, at his home in Newport News, Virginia, surrounded by his sister Juanita and family. Hal grew up in Great Falls, Montana, and Lakeview, Oregon. At the age of 19, Hal obtained his beautician's license in Portland and co-owned a shop back in Lakeview. It was in Lakeview that Hal was drafted into the Army, becoming a veteran of WWII; a Gay man who proudly served his country as an artillery surveyor in the European campaign under Patton and in the Battle of the Bulge engage-

ment. After V-E Day, Hal tended bar in occupied Germany, and eventually was discharged back to Portland, Oregon. Moving to gay San Francisco, Hal worked at the Fairmont Hotel's beauty salon in the 60's & 70's, the Cathedral Hill Salon until the hotel's December '83 fire, and for many years on Polk Street until he retired in '95 at the age of 77, saying goodbye to San Francisco and moving to Newport News, VA. An excellent hairdresser with many clients, Hal always had something good to say and never a bad word about anyone. Hal will always be remembered as a delightful and wonderful man, with his beautiful gardens and lavish holiday decorations. Hal will greatly miss gay San Francisco with its many movie theatres, all his friends, Stan, Mike, Frank and Doug, his family and pets, San Francisco's gay newspapers and See's Candy.

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OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Training daze

The 49ers video: An equal opportunity offender?

by Jim Provenzano

When it comes to homophobia in athletics, teams in the National Football League remain among the most problematic. The slight progress made by the San Francisco 49ers took a giant leap backward when a bawdy video made last August by Kirk Reynolds, their public relations director, made national headlines.

Reynolds, who also performed in the video while impersonating San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, said in interviews that his in-

tentions were good. He resigned on June 1, the day the video became news and was shown on the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Web site.

The video—which included racial stereotypes and a staged lesbian wedding including topless strippers—outraged representatives from the Asian American and LGBT communities, among others.

Reynolds states in the video, "As you guys learned in diversity training, people have diverse lifestyles. You may

know someone or have a family member with a diverse lifestyle. So embrace diversity—embrace it."

The topless women then proceed to hug and kiss.

Newsom, whose offices were used for a portion of the video (under the false impression that it was for an offensive diversity training video), told Fox affiliate KTVU, "It wasn't right to do it to the Asian community, particularly the Chinese community. It was wrong to do it to the gay and lesbian community. It was wrong to exploit women as they were exploited in this video. The video is reprehensible."

49ers owners Denise and John York issued an apology on their Web site. "The content of this training material was never cleared by any officer of this organization and is absolutely contradictory to the ideals and values of the San Francisco 49ers. [We] have zero tolerance for anything that ridicules this city or any segment of the population, or for anything that creates an environment that anyone could find harassing, embarrassing or uncomfortable."

Lindsay McLean, the former head trainer for the 49ers, who came out after retiring, suffered taunts from several players during his 24 years working for the team. But McLean said the uproar over the video is overblown.

"Kirk Reynolds does not have a homophobic bone in his body," said McLean, who credits Reynolds with deftly handling McLean's coming out to the media. "I am sorry about the



Former 49ers PR director Kirk Reynolds "celebrates diversity" with topless strippers.

video, but the intent was to promote diversity, not make fun of it. Someone really hated Kirk to send such a video to the *Chronicle*."

McLean said his former employers were an exception to the homophobia in pro football. "I feel the 49ers, mainly due to Kirk, are more tolerant of diversity than any other organization in sports. It is truly a shame."

Despite his apologies, Reynolds added in interviews that he feels racial and sexual stereotypes are sometimes permissible. "I didn't make this for public consumption," he told the *Chronicle*. "The ideas of the tape are appropriate for the locker room, though some of the subjects were inappropriate for the values of this organization, and mine, frankly."

Thom Lynch, executive director of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, issued a June

1 press announcement decrying the video's content and Reynolds's excuses, particularly that it was a media training video for players only.

"It is the third recent incident in which severe problems in the corporate culture of the San Francisco 49ers are demonstrated: discrimination and homophobia," he wrote. "The video is demeaning to women, to the Asian and Pacific Islander community and to the entire lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community."

Lynch, whose previous complaints about the 49ers resulted in a \$5,000 donation to the center from the football team, demanded that the 49ers "visibly connect themselves to the communities they attacked." York responded by scheduling a June 4 open meeting with the public at the center.

More than 50 members of Asian American, LGBT, and local branches of national human rights groups listened to John York and Ed Goines, the 49ers vice president and general counsel, respond to questions. Reynolds read a prepared apology, but left before hearing the community responses [see article, page 1].

The 49ers have a checkered history with their players and LGBT fans. David Kopay played for the 49ers from 1964 to 1967—10 years before being the first former pro player to come out. Kopay was honored along with other 49ers alumni at a 2003 half-time ceremony.

In the 49ers' heyday, when the team won its second of five Super Bowls in 1985, near-riots broke out in San Francisco. Newspapers at the time recount the predominantly gay Castro District as a safe haven for street celebrations, due in part to the 49ers' many LGBT fans.

In recent years, rumors about the homosexuality of a few players have persisted, particularly with former quarterback Jeff Garcia, who left the team in 2004. Terrell Owens, another former player, made homophobic comments about Garcia. But it was Hearst's 2002 comments about not wanting "a faggot" on his team that led to the demands for diversity training.

The 49ers became the first NFL franchise to include sexual orientation in its nondiscrimination employment policy, and also added domestic partnership benefits for employees in 1997. But that was only because they were required to do so in order to maintain their contract with the city of San Francisco.

Amid the media frenzy, sports

next page ►

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Los Altos

◀ page 15

the council meeting. "They [the council members] just glared. No smiles, no 'thank you for coming,' no questions."

The Los Altos High School GSA began six years ago when Gibbs, an administrative secretary, planted a rainbow flag on her office desk at the suggestion of Sivertsen and Juan Barajas, who directs Outlet, Mountain View's full-service LGBT youth group.

Past GSA events have included marching in the homecoming parade, a film festival fundraiser (one audience member donated \$500), and a raffle of a six-person spaghetti dinner donated by the fire station down the street, to raise money for a scholarship in memory of slain transgender teenager Gwen Araujo.

Smyth promises next year they'll be better organized with civil rights activists, GSAs from other high schools and colleges, and people with statistics to "back us up," in an "all-out effort to not let them get away with it next year."

At last Monday's GSA meeting the students – by all accounts, shocked, disappointed, discouraged, and taken aback – were silent.

"They didn't want to talk," said Gibbs.

"It's hard for the students," said Smyth. "It's just, you wish a town you grow up in would support you in some way." ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

columnists around the country, and many 49ers fans, are chiming in. But most dismiss the reaction of people offended by the video. Further, claims that it was "meant for players only" as Reynolds said, dismiss the fact that a training camp is still a place of employment.

"I know in my heart that a possibly gay player would have been offended by seeing this tape," said Supervisor Bevan Duffy, who has been working with the 49ers on outreach with the LGBT community before the videotape controversy became public.

Heather Deutsch, commissioner of the San Francisco Women's Flag Football League, and a player and out lesbian, said, "If the intention of the video was to be a joke, I do not understand why you would make the city that hosts you, and the people that support you, the butt of such an insensitive gesture. I think the 49ers franchise will feel the fallout of this incident for a long time."

The saddest result of the scandal is that the NFL team considered a pioneer in tolerance and attention to homophobia and racism has been reduced to a laughingstock.

"What you do is not only a reflection of yourself. It's a reflection of the San Francisco 49ers," said Reynolds in the now infamous tape.

If only he hadn't said it while wearing only a towel – and surrounded by three topless strippers – it might have meant something. ▼

Jim Provenzano is the guest curator of "Sporting Life," the world's first LGBT sports exhibit, on display now through 2005 at the GLBT Historical Society. Items include a 49ers helmet loaned by Lindsay McLean. Info at www.glbthistory.org. Read more columns at www.sportscomplex.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0285165-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bureau, 2019 Hyde St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lawrence Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/26/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/6/05.

MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284986-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Afu Home Care Agency, 1100 Felton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Esther Lowman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/23/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/29/05.

MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285237-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Maid Organic, 17 Bob Kaufman Aly. San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed J. Gerrit Veneman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/10/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/10/05.

MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285383-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eikon Design Group, 20 Cerritos San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gene G. Relampagos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05.

MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285384-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1.) Walker 2.) Walker Bags, 81 Dorman Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Eveline Parker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/16/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05.

MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #261814

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Afu Home Care Agency located at 14 University St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Esther Lowman. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/23/02.

MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542055

In the matter of the application of Wei Chong for change of name. The application of Wei Chong for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Wei Chong has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Wei Zhuang. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 7th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542072

In the matter of the application of Adam Lee Cronin for change of name. The application of Adam Lee Cronin for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Adam Lee Cronin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alessandro DeNino. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 14th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285264-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Paris Roosevelt Productions, 1261 Bay St. San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Phoebe Rubin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/28/98. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/11/05.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285385-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lombard Street Loan Co., 940 Bay St. #18 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Fred Koopman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/12/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285442-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Belmont Hardware, 115 Wisconsin St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Bradley A. Glone. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/19/05.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285161-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Web Caddy, 2121 Evans #G San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Christopher Swels. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/06/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/06/05.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285408-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Idleland Media, 1637 Clay St. #4 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jonathan Lanford. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/17/05.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #263748

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Lombard Street Loan located at 940 Bay St. #18 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Fred Koopman. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/16/03.

MAY 26 JUNE 2, 9, 16 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285590-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Arcadia Studio, 2453 Lombard St. #101 San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Isabelle Guerin-Grozel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/24/05.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285475-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Golden Catering Truck #333, 201 Crescent Way San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Jimmy Le. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/19/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/19/05.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285633-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: DeJani Construction, 1300 Fulton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Musa Dajani. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/01/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/25/05.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285649-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: USA Thai Noodle, 2546 San Bruno Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Buncherd Inkhong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/25/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/25/05.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285368-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1.) Pie, 2.) Pie Digital, 270 Liberty St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed John Barnhill. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/01/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



3-1-1 CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Mayor Gavin Newsom intends to establish a 3-1-1 Customer Service Center for non-emergency city government services. Citizens and businesses wishing to contact the City can dial one toll-free number: 3-1-1. The 3-1-1 Customer Service Center will include a call center and supporting technology used to initiate and track information and service requests for all city departments and agencies. To that end, the Mayor's Office is soliciting proposals for a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution that includes CRM software, implementation services, hosting, and an e-commerce platform.

The CRM Request for Proposals (RFP) is available on the City's website at <http://sunset.ci.sf.ca.us/pbids.nsf> under the "Consultants and Professional Services." Responses are due July 15, 2005. If you have any questions, e-mail crm@sf.gov.

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL - MICROCHIPPING CLINIC

On Sunday, June 12, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Animal Control and Care will conduct a microchipping clinic at 1200 15th Street (at Harrison). The clinic is free to San Francisco residents. It is open to non-residents of San Francisco at a cost of \$15. Pets must be properly leashed, muzzled and/or in a carrier (one pet per carrier). For further information, call (415) 554-6364.

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In partnership with the Department of the Environment, the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association, Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ), and Gifts 2000, the Bayview Hunters Point Farmers' Market opened on May 21. The market will operate seasonally (May 21-December 10) on a weekly basis, Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at Calver Street at 3rd Street next to Bayview Plaza. Aside from fresh fruits and vegetables, it will offer the community cooking demonstrations and nutrition education, and healthy take-out food. In an effort to make the produce available to as many people as possible, the farmers' market will accept food assistance such as Food Stamps and WIC coupons.

BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

The Office of Vital Records in the Department of Public Health maintains a continuous record of births and deaths which have occurred within the legal limits of the City and County of San Francisco since April, 1906. The office is located at 101 Grove Street, Room 105, and is open from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday (closed major holidays). For more information, call (415) 554-2700 or visit their website at <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/vital/dphvital.htm>.

CITY HALL TOURS

The City Hall Docent Tour Program provides tours to the public Monday through Friday at 10 am, 12 noon and 2 pm. All tours run 45 minutes to an hour. Reservations are required for groups of eight or more and must be made two weeks in advance to allow for scheduling. A fee is charged for private groups of eight people or more. Sign-up for tours at the Goodlett (Polk) Information/Docent Tour kiosk, located by the elevators on the main floor of City Hall.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Please complete a meeting information/public noticing survey online at <http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsuprvs> or call (415) 554-5184 for a survey form.

STATEMENT FILE A-0285580-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Basic 8 Creative, 463 Sanchez St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jason Fuges. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/15/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/24/05.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285680-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Go Go Cafe And Restaurant, 1830 Irving St. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Jared Miao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/26/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/26/05.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285265-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bay Leather, 2701 Taylor St. San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Seek Yoo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/11/05.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542095

In the matter of the application of Michelle Louise Biggs for change of name. The application of Michelle Louise Biggs for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Michelle Louise Biggs has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Michelle-Louise Souris Blieux. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542098

In the matter of the application of Patrick Joseph McGullam for change of name. The application of Patrick Joseph McGullam for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Patrick Joseph McGullam has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Patricia Lynn McGullam. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 26th day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Promoting Public Safety through Crime Prevention and Intervention

The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOJC), a division of the Mayor's Office, seeks to promote stronger, safer and healthier communities by bringing people together to collectively address local public safety needs. Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), MOJC invites eligible local non-profit agencies to apply for funding to promote public safety through crime prevention and intervention. This RFP seeks to direct funding and services throughout San Francisco, with a focus on our communities most heavily impacted by crime and violence. This RFP is specific in nature and applicants are encouraged to carefully review the information provided.

The RFP and Fund Guidelines will be available for download at: www.sfgov.org/mojc. Select the Request for Proposals tab.

The RFP and Fund Guidelines will also be available in hard copy at:

Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 496
San Francisco, CA 94102
For additional information call 415.554.6515.

Applications must be hand-delivered to the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24th. No late applications will be accepted.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542095

In the matter of the application of Michelle Louise Biggs for change of name. The application of Michelle Louise Biggs for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Michelle Louise Biggs has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Michelle-Louise Souris Blieux. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of July, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #273863

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as USA Thai Noodle located at 2546 San Bruno Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Buncherd Inkhong. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/23/04.

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23 2005

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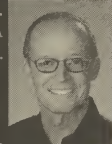
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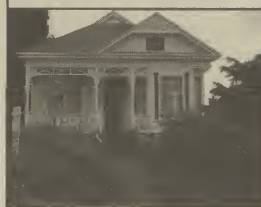
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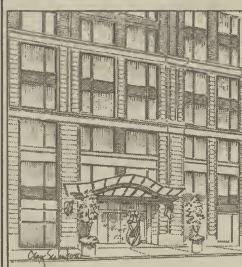
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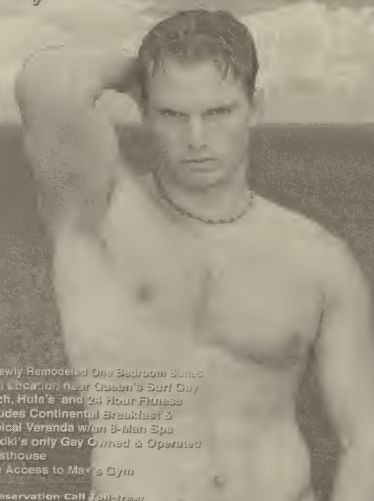
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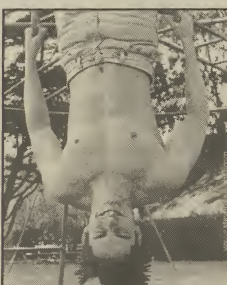
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0285941-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Swagaville Entertainment, 915 Golden
Gate Ave. Apt. K San Francisco, Ca.
94102. This business is conducted by an
individual, signed James E. Metts. The reg-
istrant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 6/06/05. The statement
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 6/06/05.

JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285796-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Chen's Fortune Cookie, 937 Howard St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94013. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed De
Huang Chen. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on N/A.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 6/01/05.

JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285523-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Space Gallery, 1141 Polk St. San Francisco,
Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an
individual, signed Ray Morone. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on 5/20/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/20/05.

JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE # CNC 05542122
In the matter of the application of Karen S.
Becker for change of name. The application
of Karen S. Becker for change of
name having been filed in Court, and it ap-
pearing from said application that Karen S.
Becker has filed an application propos-
ing that his/her name be changed to Zoe
Becker. Now therefore, it is hereby or-
dered, that all persons interested in said
matter do appear before this Court in
Room 218 on the 4th day of August, 2005
at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why
the application for change of name should
not be granted.

JUNE 9, 16, 23, 30 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF AL-
COHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To whom it may concern: The name of the
applicant is/are JM And Associates, Inc.
The applicants listed above are applying to
the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Con-
trol at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500
San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic
beverages at 1830 Irving St. San Francis-
co, Ca. 94122. Type of License applied for:
**41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE -
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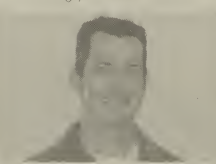
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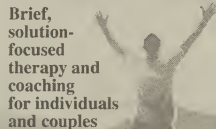
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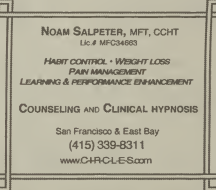
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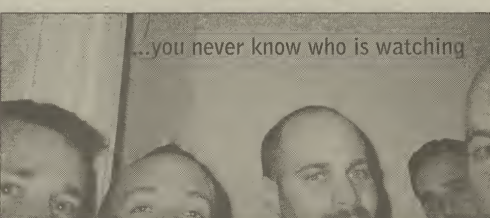
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Bay Area theatre is gay, gay, gay!
'Medea: The Musical,' 'Hush Up!,' 'Watch
Me Shine,' Theatre Rhino season to come.
pages 35 – 36

'Tunnel' vision
Goodbye, Lenin; goodbye,
East Berlin, in new film.
page 39



Harlem lights
Bringing 'Brother to
Brother' to cinematic life.
page 44



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 23 • 9 June 2005

Singapore tattooed loveboys

ROYSTON TAN'S '15' FOCUSES ON TEEN GANG CULTURE

by David Lamble

When Royston Tan showed up at the Sundance Film Festival last year, he ran into Catherine Hardwicke.

"I'm 15," he quipped.

"I'm Thirteen," she replied.

"Where's 14?" they chortled.

A funny game for two directors to play: Tan, the creator of a dark look at teenage boys running amok through the super-orderly streets of his native Singapore; and Hardwicke, known for her incendiary fictional portrait of freshman high school girls gone wild in L.A. Hardwicke has since gone on to direct *The Lords of Dogtown*, a skateboard saga clocking in at #5 on *Variety's* box office derby last weekend, while Tan is seeing his punk-boy opus *15* introduced to a few US markets this weekend.

It can safely be said that any director who can get an attractive gaggle of kids to act up on screen has it made in the Hollywood shade. Alfonso Cuarón turned his offbeat road comedy about two Mexican teens playing around with an older woman, *Y Tu Mama Tambien*, into an international career for himself and his two stars, Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna. The problem for Tan is that his Singapore gang-boy actors are a little wild for even his tastes.

page 38 ►



Neglected masterpiece

'L.I.E.' GETS A NEW LIFE ON DVD by David Lamble

In 1994, Michael Cuesta, a still photographer in the cut-throat New York ad world, started doodling on an idea he hoped might be the springboard for his first feature film. Drawing on his Long Island boyhood, Cuesta imagined the fate of a 15-year-old kid who becomes a virtual orphan while still living in the lap of suburban luxury. Howie's mother has been killed in a crash at Exit 52 of the Long Island Expressway (L.I.E.), a monster highway that snakes the length of the island, and the boy now lives with his increasingly distracted contractor dad, Marty. When

Marty isn't banging his girlfriend, he's up to his elbows in a messy legal case that has the FBI on his trail.

Early drafts of the script for *L.I.E.* had Howie getting into small scrapes: he and three friends relieve their boredom by breaking into fancy homes. But Cuesta knew he needed to raise the stakes, give Howie some real trouble. Remembering stories about an older guy in a van who used to cruise his 'hood (the kids called him "The Bloated Man"), Cuesta sat down with his writing partners, brother Gerald and an ex-New York cop, Stephen M.

Ryder, to flesh out the character of an avuncular Irish-American ex-Marine, Big John Harrigan. Big John is tight with the cops, in daily contact with his 90-year-old mother, and drives a fire-engine-red '72 Olds 442, a souped-up dream car that is catnip to teenage boys. *L.I.E.* became a dance macabre between Howie and Big John, with Howie's hustler buddy Gary acting as matchmaker.

In his director's commentary for the DVD release of *L.I.E.*, Cuesta says that most of the ribald banter between Howie

page 44 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Beginning to feel a lot like Pride month

by Roberto Friedman

The advent of the merry month of June found Out There strolling down pungent 9th Street to visit with Frameline executive director **Michael Lumpkin** and director of programming **Jennifer Morris**, keen to hear the dish on the 29th San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival, coming right up on June 16-26. This year's strong lineup includes 268 films from 33 countries, and no fewer than 60 local filmmakers in the mix. Go team!

A quick nose-count revealed that Out There's gay publisher, a committed Francophile, is most excited about the opening-night

film, *Cote d'Azur*, a romantic comedy set on the Riviera from **Oliver Ducastel** and **Jacques Martineau**, who gave us previous fest faves *Adventures of Felix and My Life on Ice*. Out There's lesbian therapist, on the other hand, is most looking forward to the closing-night film, *Transamerica*, in which **Felicity Huffman**, far from *Desperate Housewives*, undergoes gender reassignment surgery. The movie was just bought up for big-time commercial release later this

year, and Huffman is already being talked up for a stab at the Oscar. Our full-fledged arts coverage of Frameline 29's offerings begins next week, but here are a few impressions we had whilst chewing over the goods with the folks



Out There



Felicity Huffman (Bree) and Kevin Zegers (Toby) in *Transamerica*.

in charge.

Names, we got 'em: big NYC stars like **Kiki & Herb** on the Rocks; archival footage of **Charles Busch** at Theatre Rhino in *The Lady in Question* is **Charles Busch**; photographer **Tom Bianchi** and activist **Larry Kramer** remembering the cultural revolution of *Gay Sex in the 70s*; local legends hitting the big-time: **Heklin** (*Trannyshack*), **Peaches Christ** at the Castro and Her Tran-ilogy of *Terror*, and the much-anticipated *That Man: Peter Berlin*. Or go high-brow, if you must, with **Ned Rorem: Word & Music**.

So much here likely to stimulate. Try **Marga Gomez** in the parodic *The D Word*. The barrio cult of **Morrissey** in *Is It Really So Strange?* *Bitchy, Witty & Wise: The Films of David Weissman*. **Jenni Olson**'s poetic *The Joy of Life*. The return of **Jennie Livingston**'s *Paris is Burning*, with her new short *Who's the Top?* Local history revealed in **Susan Stryker & Victor Silverman**'s *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria*. She's ba-ack in **Tammy Faye: Death Defying**, followed up on Pink Saturday at the Castro by *eXposed*, a behind-the-scenes look at a Colt Studio production. We're hoping Tammy Faye sticks around for some schmoozing with the porn stars. Exceedingly diminutive, TF comes up right about to their fill-in-the-bulge.

Sports and transies are themes that run rich through this year's programming, cropping up in the darnedest places. *My Brother*

Nikhil, the first Hindi movie to take on male homosexuality and HIV, features swimmers in Speedos. In Bay Area filmmaker **Lisset Barcellos**' *BOTH*, a bisexual stuntwoman learns about her childhood diagnosis as a hermaphrodite and ensuing clitorotomy. That's a mouthful!

In *Rugger Buggers*, London's **Kings Cross Steelers** compete in the Bingham Cup, a gay rugby tournament named after 9/11 hero **Mark Bingham**. Among the competition are local gay rugbys **San Francisco Fog**, so expect the team and their considerable cult of groupies to sell out the screening.

Frameline is looking for people who can simultaneously translate into ASL, for signing during filmmaker **Q&As**. Prospective volunteers should call (415) 703-8650. More info on tickets can be found at frameline.org.

Box scores

Chesty crooner **Robert Goulet** is back on Broadway, appearing in *La Cage aux Folles* as what *The New Yorker* calls "the more masculine half of a long-term gay couple."

"I guess I'd be considered the alpha male," Goulet conjectured as he and the NYer's **Adam Green** took turns making retarded attempts at using queer terminology. "Is that what they call it when you've got two gays together, the alpha male? Anyway, the one that doesn't wear a dress." Quick, send this one back to Remedial Gay 101, ASAP!

Keeping us mighty queer are our intrepid correspondents, who keep blessing our glutinous inbox with digital portraits of male pulchritude. We've been enjoying a crude computer animation of **Michelangelo's David**, who doesn't just stand there and pose, he reaches down and scratches around the old bag of goodies. It's David as a pro baseball player — specifically, **Barry Zito**, who never stops playing with the family jewels. Thanks for the memories, **Tiger**.

Swedish message

This week's United Nations commemorations in San Francisco are a good time to remember that the most famous U.N. Secretary General of them all, **Dag Hammarskjöld**, could legitimately be counted as having played for Our Team.

The author of *Noble Lives — Biographical Portraits of Three Remarkable Gay Men* (Harrington Park Press), **Marc E. Vargo, MS** concedes that Hammarskjöld's sexuality identity was always in question during his lifetime, but notes that since his tragic death in '61, "much has come to light about the statesman. Today it is often assumed that he was homosexual, although perhaps absti-

nent."

We learn that Dag was the youngest of four sons, and his mum, **Agnes**, had hoped for a girl. She "soon began fashioning his appearance into that of a girl. She allowed his silky blond hair to fall in ringlets to his shoulders so that it framed his angelic face, a look so striking that her friends called him 'Goldilocks.' She also dressed him in blouses, ruffled skirts, and bonnets to heighten his feminine appearance." Agnes told a group of friends, "You know, [Hjalmar] and I have always been very sorry we never had a daughter — but Dag has been just like a daughter for us." What a woman he would be.

The noble line of Hammarskjölds lived in the 16th-century "Red Castle" in Uppsala, Sweden (Dad, when he was Prime Minister, commuted in from Stockholm). Interestingly, though ordered built as a fortress by the "ruthless" **King Gustavus Vasa**, the castle later became home to his great-granddaughter **Christina**, "who as a lesbian and heir to the throne, demanded she be crowned king, not queen, of Sweden."

By the time Hammarskjöld's plane crashed during a UN peace-keeping mission in the Republic of the Congo, he was world-renowned as a Nobel Laureate and Secretary General of the United Nations who worked for peace during the hot years of the Cold War. Quite a queen to claim for the Team.

The other two remarkable gay men covered in Vargo's triple portrait are Jazz Age author **Glenway Wescott** and great modernist composer **Aaron Copland**. Pretty nifty company to keep.

Tuxedo junction

Who says gay people don't recruit? Gay life, let's face it, is part hazing ritual, part frat party. The **Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus** is seeking singers for their Invitational Pride Concert Season (June 14-Sept 11). Auditions will be held June 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info, see www.oebgmc.org, e-mail auditions@oebgmc.org, or phone (800) 706-2389.

With emperor penguins coming to the Silver Screen in the feature films *Deep Blue* and *March of the Penguins*, it's nice to see the adorable creatures in formal attire get the screentime they so richly deserve.

But it's also good to see penguins finally acknowledged as a species with homosexual tendencies, as they are in *And Tango Makes Three*, a new children's book by **Justin Richardson** and **Peter Parnell**, illustrated by **Henry Cole** (Simon & Schuster). Tango is the first penguin at the zoo to have two daddies.

Back story: "Two penguins in the penguin house were a little bit different." We'll say. Roy and Silo are both boys, "but they did everything together. They bowed to each other. And walked together. They sang to each other. And swam together." All clear signs.

"Roy and Silo wound their necks around each other. Their keeper Mr. Gramzay thought to himself, 'They must be in love.'" Mr. Gramzay, BTW, is a hottie.

Long story short, R & S try to hatch a rock, adopt an orphaned egg, raise young Tango, it takes a penguin village. We're so charmed, we're going to start browsing the personals on peng4penguins.com. ▼

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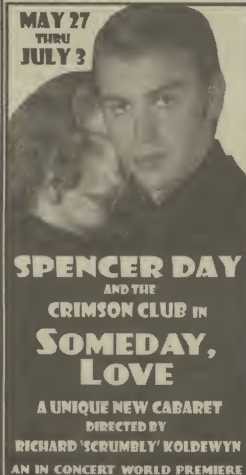
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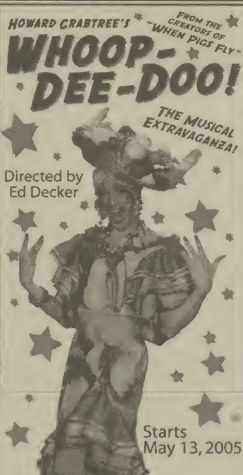
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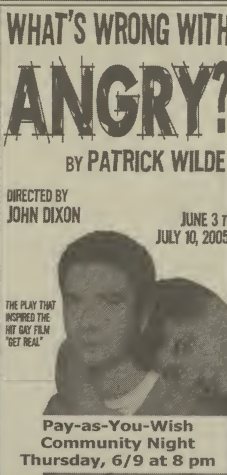
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Classical gas

'Medea: The Musical' is reborn

by Richard Dodds

Before I ever thought San Francisco would be my home, I happened upon *Medea: The Musical* during a visit to the Bay Area in the mid-'90s. I thought it was aggressively silly and even a little bit gay-unfriendly, but after I moved here and got to know and appreciate writer-director John Fisher's work, I figured I hadn't been properly receptive to his manic gender follies.

Now here I am reviewing Fisher's new production of his hit show at Theatre Rhino, and I wish I could say I'm ready to fully embrace this hellzapoppin' backstage musical parody. But the show, at least in its current incarnation, is a hit-and-miss affair. Of course, that's partly by design. Throw enough shtick at the fourth wall, and some of it is bound to stick. And if it doesn't, well, a groan is almost as good as a laugh.

But problems can arise when the laughter sputters into silence even as the cast ratchets up the volume, as if in compensation. Too many of the performers are tenaciously committed to characterizations that fail to elicit the expected response (i.e. laughter), a condition that saps the goodwill needed to maintain momentum.

Still, there are merry moments scattered throughout the show. It's the tale of a theater director trying to stage a gay version of *Medea*, but who must contend with an increasingly rebellious cast. The most egregious of the rebels is the gay leading man cast as Jason, who decides not to play it gay when he finds himself falling in love with the seductive actress playing Medea. This infuriates the director as he watches his production stray from the strict gay dogma of his vision. As is his wont, Fisher works



Jason (Nathan Bayard), Phaedra (Natalie Saibel) and Hippolytus (Enrique Vallejo) in Theatre Rhino's revival of *Medea: The Musical*.

in a few jabs at those who believe sexuality must be either-or, and the straight conversion of the leading man no longer chafes as it did a decade ago.

Fisher himself effectively plays the director, quietly ensconced in the back of the auditorium unless he is barking orders at his actors or getting into heated arguments over his concepts for *Medea*. Nathan Bayard merrily plays the sexually fluid Jason, and Sarah Mitchell can be both fiery and warm as Medea. Matt Weimer earns some of the biggest laughs as a fruity-kabuki variation on Medea's gruff father Aeetes. Jeffrey Hartgraves frequently finds the humor in the world-weary costume designer, and Natalie Saibel does attractive work as the ambitious actress playing Phaedra.

The large cast explodes with energy (even driving a few in the front row to empty seats in the back), and they hoof and sing with ragged gusto the collection of pop tunes outfitted with parody lyrics. Music director Eric de Lora is at the piano, and occasionally in the action with awkward gumption.

Even with cuts in the script that Fisher reports he made for this production, the show is still 30 minutes too long. Streamlined to 90 minutes in one act, *Medea: The Musical* has the ingredients of a reborn hit. A little of this slam-bang style goes a long way. ▼

Medea: The Musical will run at Theatre Rhino through June 19. Tickets are \$15-\$28. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

Stageward bound

Rhino season '05-'06 announced

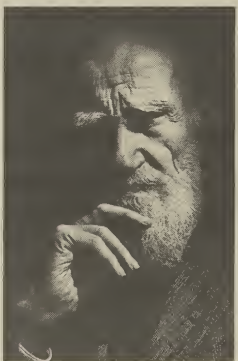
by Richard Dodds

With its 11th and final show of the season now running, Theatre Rhino is looking ahead to a streamlined 2005-'06 season of six productions.

"I did too many plays this season," said Artistic Director John Fisher. "I went crazy. Artistically, it was very satisfying, and we were able to do some huge shows, but they cost a lot. We need to economize a little bit."

The final production of the current season is one of those big shows: *Medea: The Musical*, a revival of Fisher's signature show from a decade ago. After closing the season with this spoof of Euripides, Rhino will return in September with a straight version of George Bernard Shaw's *The Philanderer*. Well, straight as far as the text is concerned, but with a queer reading between the lines.

This early Shaw comedy focuses on the members of London's Ibsen Society, including the title character, who is caught between two women. A Rhino board member saw Oregon Shakespeare Fes-



Unlikely gay inspiration: G.B. Shaw

tival's production of *The Philanderer* earlier this year, and came back with reports of a newly illuminated queer quotient.

"You could read it and not really get it that way," Fisher said, "but in rereading it, and running this place, I was like, 'My God, this is so queer.'"

Following its first-ever production of a Shaw play, Rhino will offer an October premiere of a

new play by local writer Garret Jon Groenveld. Actually, *Missives* is not brand-spanking new, having won a Best of the PlayGround Festival designation in 2002.

"But it's never been performed, which is weird because it's so easy to stage," Fisher said. "There are three central characters, a straight black woman, a gay guy, and a guy in jail, and we don't quite know what his connection is to the other two until later. There's a lot of humor, but it ends up a pretty serious play."

For the next show, Rhino had hoped to follow up its success this season with the long-lost Tennessee Williams play *Not About Nightingales* with another rare Williams work. But Fisher's plans to adapt Williams' unproduced screenplay for *One Arm*, about a male prostitute on the lam, were waylaid when Moises Kaufman (*The Laramie Project*) did his own adaptation in Chicago last year. "So I chose to do *Ben!* in its place," Fisher said. "It's one of my favorites." Set for a December opening, Martin Sherman's 1979 drama looks at persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany

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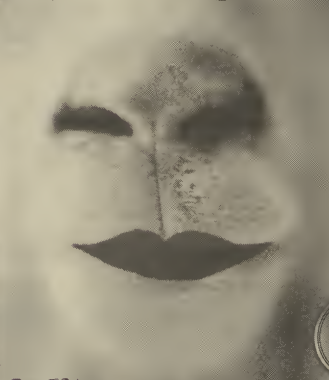
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Gay & lesbian history sung through

Composer and lyricist launch new revue 'Watch Me Shine'

by Richard Dodds

The creators of *Watch Me Shine* have both been married, Adam Sandel to a woman and Richard Link to a man. The former union ended in divorce; the courts voided the latter. Their own experiences are among the many reflected in the new revue that offers a musical history of the gay and lesbian experience through 22 songs.

"The thing I love about telling a story with songs is that music goes right to the heart of the matter," said Sandel, who provided lyrics to Link's music and is directing the 75-minute show. Performances begin June 15 at Michael's Octavia Lounge.

Watch Me Shine began as a song of the same name that Sandel and Link wrote for the SF Gay Men's Chorus to perform at the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney. "The first time we got to hear it performed publicly was at this sold-out concert at the Sydney Opera House, which is pretty incredible," Sandel said.

After that auspicious start to their songwriting partnership, Link and Sandel went to work on a large-scale space-age musical titled *Dream World*. Although they did manage to mount a showcase production, they found taking it to the next step to be a daunting project.

"Finally I said to Richard, 'Look, why don't we just write something small, a revue you can do in a restaurant or a cabaret or a



Adam Sandel: fun with identity.



Richard Link: on the vanguard.

theater. And this idea of all the different elements of the gay and lesbian experience had been kicking around in my head, so we said, let's do a gay-themed show and we'll go through all of the different challenges and triumphs that gay people have faced throughout this century. But we do go back even further. The opening number mentions by name a hundred famous gays and lesbians from history. And then we bring it up to today, where we have breaking news about gay and lesbian history as we speak."

Sandel was referring to the recent unsuccessful vote in the state Assembly in favor of gay marriage,

an institution that Link entered into with personal partner David Moloney at their City Hall wedding last year before the courts took it all away.

Link and Moloney moved to SF nine years ago from Edmonton in Alberta, the Canadian province ironically most opposed to gay marriage in that gay-friendly country. "I'm a small-town Albertan boy," Link said.

"But Medicine Hat had a very vibrant community theatre, and that's where I first got my start when I was very, very young."

He performed in many musicals, and eventually became a musical-director for hire at theaters throughout Alberta. "One summer I worked for a theater company in Edmonton, and we did this series of seven shows in eight weeks. We'd perform a show at night and rehearse another in the afternoon and write another in the morning. And these shows ran the complete gamut of styles."

It's a background that served him in good stead for the multiple musical styles needed for *Watch Me Shine*. "There's a sassy Bessie Smith blues number, a Cole Porter-esque number, some disco and country, and contemporary

pop songs," he said.

Link works by day as director of liturgy and fine arts at St. Paulus Lutheran Church. "It was where the very first gay Lutherans were ordained in the 1980s," he said. "It's always been a church on the vanguard, otherwise I wouldn't be there."

Sandel, on the other hand, grew up in Minnesota and then Southern California, and he headed to UCLA to be an actor and graduated in 1980 with playwriting as his goal. He's had 20 or so productions of his work, but it wasn't until he wrote the solo show *Falling Off the Edge* a few years ago that he finally dealt with gay subject matter.

"I was married and raised three children," Sandel said, "but certainly being a theater arts major living in West Hollywood as a young 'un with a fake ID, I had a lot of bisexual experiences. About six years ago, my ex and I decided it was time for us to move forward. It's really been about that long that I've been out and identifying as gay."

His own experiences helped fuel the ideas behind a number in *Watch Me Shine* titled "Sextette." "It's made up of little songs from gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people. We have fun with the idea of how everyone identifies in these different ways."

Sandel makes his living these days teaching at several community colleges and through freelance writing, including contributions to the *BAR*. Sandel and Link hope that this self-produced run

of *Watch Me Shine* will lead to a commercial run, perhaps even as an on-going show that becomes a destination for tourists and locals.

"We're trying to hit all the main turning points," Sandel said, "like Stonewall, the AIDS epidemic, Anita Bryant, and Harvey Milk. When we've been reading through this show, people will say, 'My God, I didn't know that's what it was like.' And these are people who are gay. If you're part of a group that's been marginalized or oppressed, it's really important to know what's come before you."

For more info on *Watch Me Shine*, call (800) 595-4849 or go to watchmeshinethemusical.com.

Short scenes

Kate Clinton, called by some "the lesbian Jon Stewart," is heading to SF with her *Talking a Blue Streak* tour. The veteran stand-up with a political edge will be at the Brava Theater Center for three performances beginning June 10. Call 647-2822 or go to brava.org.

A gay son once was a cause of consternation for the family in *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* But same-sex desires tend to pale when a family member discovers interspecies romance. Edward Albee's odd and funny play opens June 15 at the Geary Theater, and ACT is offering a souped-up *Out with ACT* reception for Pride month following the June 22 performance. Call 749-2228 or go to act-sf.org.

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.



Backstage

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'Hush Up! Sweet Charlotte'

by Richard Dodds

Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte was supposed to be a reunion of Bette Davis and Joan Crawford after the triumph of their first screen meeting in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* But the clash of personalities became too much for Crawford, who was replaced by Olivia De Havilland. Let's face it, the hermetically gracious De Havilland is no match for Crawford if the business at hand is to have sport with the film and its stars.

But fortunately for *Hush Up! Sweet Charlotte*, Varla Jean Merman is playing the De Havilland role, and doing so with a comic gusto that could blow poor Olivia right off the screen. Just the sight of Varla Jean fighting to close a pair of French doors against a raging storm in a chiffon nightgown with bosoms heaving is practically worth the price of admission. It may be more Merman than De Havilland, but as noted, that's a good thing.

Hush Up also marks the first joint stage appearance of Jeffery Roberson (Varla Jean's creator) and our own Matthew Martin, who definitely goes for the *bete* Bette in a hilarious performance



Varla Jean Merman: comic gusto.

that never loses sight of its original inspiration. These cross-dressing stars are quite a team, but only until June 26, when Arturo Galster takes over the De Havilland role.

Martin knows the territory, having played Bette Davis in numerous local productions, including the original *Hush Up* 11 years ago. He's also repeating his assignment as director, and with a few exceptions, he knows where the laughs are.

The original 1966 movie was a

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Two gay composers

Sexuality is key in Britten, not so in Barber

by Stephanie von Buchau

Britten and Barber: Their Lives and Their Music by Daniel Felsenfeld; Amadeus Press paperback, \$22.95

I don't find identity politics very useful in examining the arts. For instance, whether Tchaikovsky was homosexual and fighting it, homosexual and embracing it, or homosexual and unaware of what it really meant socially and personally, has virtually nothing to do with the magnificence of his *Sleeping Beauty* or last three symphonies. On the other hand, Benjamin Britten's sexuality, long an open secret (secret because Britain had cruel sodomy laws until just a generation ago), has just as much, if not more, to do with his compositions as any part of his life.

How do you tell? By listening to the music. The first time I heard *Peter Grimes*, Britten's consensus operatic masterpiece, I didn't know anything about the composer's personal life and very little more about homosexuality in general. Yet I instantly sensed there was a passionate subtext to this opera about a brilliant but violent fisherman who abused his young apprentices. I wasn't alone in feeling this. You'd have to be insensitive not to realize that *Grimes* isn't evil; he is that heroic-pathetic creation that Britten turned to again and again: the "outsider."

Daniel Felsenfeld's new book in the Amadeus Press *Parallel Lives* series makes this perfectly clear. Though he points out in the Introduction that both Britten and



No pussyfooting: Britten was gay.

Samuel Barber were gay, it is Britten's homosexuality that gets an entire chapter, because it is completely relevant to his work as a composer. Barber had other issues: melancholy, nostalgia, family problems and depression helped shaped his music, but Felsenfeld obviously doesn't feel (and I agree) that sexuality was an important part of it.

In other words, in one short book, Felsenfeld has laid to rest the canard that sexuality drives all creation. He couldn't have picked two composers more qualified to demonstrate that we must tread carefully when assigning motives, but we also must not shirk from exploration. Most writing about Britten's operas even today pussyfoots around the subject. San Francisco Opera's program notes on *Billy Budd* last season kept harping on the work's political bias, which is like saying that *King Lear* is about geriatrics.

To be fair, Britten himself never publicly acknowledged his sexuality; that was left to his long-time partner, tenor Peter Pears, after the composer's death. But how anybody could listen to *Grimes*, *Budd*, *Albert Herring*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and most explicitly *Death in Venice*, to say nothing of all that children's music, and not hear the composer's inner voice clamoring to be free, strikes me as one of the major critical gaffes of the last century.

Felsenfeld's book is not written for the musical professional (though some of them could use a crash course in "diversity"), but what it sets out to do for the ordinary listener, it does admirably, swiftly and helpfully. Short biographies, covering all the major works, relationships and historical events, are followed by the essays — the Britten already discussed above, and Barber's on the defining event of his maturity, the disastrous Metropolitan Opera premiere of *Antony and Cleopatra*.

Then we get to the second half of the book, titled "Listening," and here Felsenfeld proves to have an excellent ear and the ability to explain clearly what he hears, which is rarer than one would hope. A full-length CD (all tracks from Naxos) offers both excerpts (Britten's "Passacaglia" from *Grimes*) and major works (Britten's "Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings" and three Barber masterpieces, the "Second Essay for Orchestra," "Knoxville: Summer of 1915" and the magnificent "Adagio for Strings.") Acknowledging that the latter is often sneered at as both movie and funeral music, Felsen-

feld then proceeds to analyze what it really is: a flawlessly calibrated assault on our emotions, something we may have forgotten was the original intent of all music. ▼

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Ba-ba-loo

Moribund 'Mambo Kings' debuts

by Richard Dodds

With the name of a dance in its title, you'd expect *The Mambo Kings* to be a showcase for its dancers. But with only a few exceptions, this new musical doesn't deliver in the happy-feet department. Mostly the dance ensemble twirls generically about to provide segues for scene changes, but when choreographer Sergio Trujillo and his dancers do get a chance to cut loose, this Broadway-bound musical throws off sparks.

These exciting moments are nestled amid material that is often stale and derivative, following dated musical-comedy formats and suggesting a compose-by-numbers approach to the songs. The list of vintage musicals and songs that *The Mambo Kings* recalls, but fails to approach, is too long to recount here.

Based on the 1992 movie and the novel that inspired it, *The Mambo Kings* follows the fortunes of two musician-brothers who leave 1950s Cuba for fame, fortune, and romance in New York. As in the movie, the motivation for their move is unconvincing, and it returns to further undermine the story later in the show. Arne Glimcher, the film's director, and Oscar Hijuelos, author of



Cote de Pablo and Jaime Camil are star-crossed lovers in *Mambo Kings*.

the novel, collaborated on the musical's book, but their close association to the material can't overcome their hoary notion of musical theater.

Glimcher also wrote the pedestrian lyrics for Carlos Franzetti's unmemorable music, and the songs are performed with varying degrees of skill by an uneven cast. Esai Morales, as hothead older brother Cesar, has a small, pitchy voice while Jaime Camil is marginally better vocally as sweet pretty-boy brother Nestor. Chris-

tiane Noll brings solid Broadway pipes and demeanor to the role of Cesar's brassy gal, while Cote de Pablo, as Nestor's wife, exudes a good-girl simplicity signaled by keeping her hands folded in front of her mustn't-touch-it.

Poor David Alan Grier is stuck with an underwritten role (abandoned a few weeks ago by Billy Dee Williams) as the bad-guy manager who sings the most clichéd of all the show's songs, a Faustian number complete with

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BOOTS

15

◀ Arts cover

While he was in Sundance, one of the boys from *15* broke into Tan's apartment and swiped the 27-year-old director's cameras. While shooting *15*, the boys had ideas for things they wanted to do on screen that were too much even for him.

"Hey, we'll watch porn together, and we'll jerk off one another. Do you think we can film that?"

"No," I said, "that's more than enough for me to film. What we're doing is good. Don't give me an additional heart attack!"

Tan, a self-confessed "wild boy" himself a decade ago, shows us a dark side of Singapore with his dazzling slice into the psyches of frustrated schoolboys. The punkish feature *15* is expanded from his earlier short film. Vynn, Eric, Shawn, and Melvin are seen in a gaggle of high-risk misadven-



The teenagers in Royston Tan's *15* are lonely youth looking for affection.

tures: exchanging tattoos and bloody body piercings, joking about decadent sex with girlfriends and each other, rumbling with other Chinese-boy gangs, getting caned at school and tossed out of their homes. A poignant scene finds a boy having a cheap piece of cake shoved in his face by his best friend, the only one who remembered his birthday. The feature is considerably sadder than the short, with its focus on the suicidal fixations of Singapore's hooligan class of kids. The film treats suicide seriously, but also playfully. At one point, a young man goes on a bus trip around the city looking for an aesthetically suitable building from which to end his life.

15 also features a scene where one bare-chested boy reaches over to another in bed and asks, "Can I give you a hug?" Tan explains that the film is entirely based on things he witnessed off-camera, adding that the boys aren't gay or straight, just lonely youth looking for affection.

No future

The tattooed flesh and steely-eyed looks of his young cast, their flirtation with death and despair and lack of belief in a future, brought Tan face to face with his own youthful memories. He plugged into Singapore's gang-boys while teaching a class to help kids reform through an immersion in the arts. "I got to know one of them really well, and he opened his world to me and started sharing a lot of his stories. The problems he shared were similar to ones I encountered 10 years ago," Tan says the drive to succeed in the semi-authoritarian Singapore — with its draconian drug laws, ban on chewing gum, and severe penalties for wayward youth — creates a group of teens who feel their lives are effectively over at 15. "I was 100% like them, except I didn't have a tattoo. We haven't made much progress at all since I was a kid."

Tan bears the emotional scars not only of his brief fling with teen gang culture, but also of the shocking jolt that occurred when his father went bankrupt, a victim of the hypervolatile Singapore real

estate market. Since that day when he was 17, Tan has been, like his subjects, a creature of his own invention. One of the problems he faced making a movie about kids whose lives are permanently set on warp speed is that some of them will vanish while he still needs to film them. His film is actually structured to reflect the rollercoaster-like highs and lows of the kids' lives. "A great example would be taking drugs. The first 25 minutes is almost like you get a high and everything is fun; the second part is, you anchor yourself down, and the effects of the high are over; and the final segment is almost like the withdrawal syndrome, which hits you back to reality, the painful truth you need to deal with."

The badges of distinction sported by *15*'s gang boys are elaborate tattoos and body piercings. Watching young Eric get his lip pierced on camera is akin to watching a horror film. "When we first saw him, he was piercing himself. I asked him why he liked to pierce, 'Is it because it's fashionable?' He gave a very good answer. 'No. When you're feeling pain, you just need an additional pain from the outside to forget the pain you have.'"

Due to censorship laws, *15* has only been shown in a severely edited version in Singapore. Over 27 cuts were made, and all the gang-related karaoke songs were excised, leaving Tan severely depressed. "I had to leave the country for a while." It is the director's cut opening June 10 in the Bay Area that represents his vision.

Alternating between a film style that treats the boys like human works of art and hyperkinetic segments that see their world as a nonstop video game, Tan gets astonishingly vivid performances from the boys, their stick-figure skinny bodies snaking into karaoke chorus lines — boys who are playing themselves, giving lie to the myth that Asian teens are inarticulate or lacking in passion. The uncut *15*, along with chewing gum, is still banned in Singapore. ▼

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Queer bodies



Rick Genauer

Un)Godly Bodies, a visual arts exhibit of the Queer Latina/o Artists' Coalition (QueLACo) curated by Daniel Arcos, showcases more than 20 artists whose works comment on the religious right's demonization of queers in the 2004 election. (Un)Godly Bodies opened last Sunday, June 5, at SomArts Cultural Center in SF, showing painting, sculpture, installation, photography and digital artwork by featured artist Sandra Ortiz Tav'rr, Jose Maro Alvarado, Monica Enriquez, Miguel Flores, M' a Gonzalez, and Javier Perez, among others. Live entertainment was by James "Tiana" Olguin, a transgender Mexican folklorico dancer from Colorado. (Papier-mache sculpture by Juan Ramon Gutierrez.)

FILM

Finding the way out

Digging 'The Tunnel' out of East Berlin

by David Lamble

In the opening of the new film *The Tunnel*, an East German swimmer named Harry experiences a proud moment winning an all-German competition in Berlin. With his adoring sister Lotte and his best friend Matthias cheering him on, Harry stands up for his principles and has to flee the country. The country Harry flees, the German Democratic Republic, was not properly speaking a country at all, but rather the Soviet-occupied Eastern zone of a defeated Germany, turned into a sham showcase for socialism by Uncle Joe Stalin.

As Harry climbs out of the pool to collect his medal, Matthias finds the occasion bittersweet. The brilliant engineering student knows that the East German authorities are at that moment (August 1961) building a wall to seal the border and stanch the exodus of talented younger workers. Later that night, Matthias executes a desperate escape, leading his wife Carola and friends through the now-divided city's sewer system. Carola is caught and imprisoned, and the emotionally distraught Matthias establishes a covert escape

unit in West Berlin. His first customer is his old friend Harry, who walks past Checkpoint Charlie with a phony tourist passport.

The Tunnel, from director Roland Richter, is a great clock of a movie that only starts ticking after a very long wind. Once Harry is onboard, a little band of comrades is formed to execute Matthias' plan to dig a 145-meter tunnel under the Wall and into the basement of a deserted building on the Eastern side of the city. Harry's implacably focused fury keeps the dig going against all obstacles. He's as ferocious at resisting the overtures of an East German State Security (Stasi) colonel as he is at taking a poke at an obnoxious NBC-TV producer when the network funds the tunnel in exchange for an exclusive broadcast.

Fall out

The film, shot for TV in a claustrophobic style that makes the audience feel as trapped as these passionate East Germans, is the latest in a series of great films — *Das Boot*, *Goodbye Lenin* and *Downfall* — giving the German point of view to the fall-out from WWII. In a film all about loyalty and betrayal, we get to probe the

motives of a sexy core cast. Heino Ferch's Harry has the tightly wound masculine charm of Bruce Willis, without the trademark smirk. Mehmet Kurtulus brings an ingratiating charm to Vic, an Italian-born American ex-GI who gets the perilous job of a border-crossing mole. One excruciating scene has Vic taken prisoner by the Stasi, and ordered to strip off all his wearing, including a wooden leg.

The elfin mama's boy Felix is forever telling men like Harry how "handsome" they are, and he's fantastic at impossible errands, like tricking East German soldiers into calling the plumbers to stop a leak in the tunnel. Nicolette Krebitz is Fritzi, the fierce young woman who fights to prove to Harry that she's not a spy, then fights her own feelings for him so as not to betray her boyfriend in the East. Uwe Kockisch is sublimely smarmy as the oily, Javert-like Stasi colonel who exploits the foibles of his prey.

In a heart-stopping sequence, Fritzi's boyfriend Heiner (Florian Panzner) is shot by a youthful border-guard. The boy lies, slowly bleeding to death in the no-man's land between the Wall and the safety of the Western zone. Fritzi



Matthis plans to dig a tunnel under the Berlin Wall for escape purposes.

cries out to Heiner, and Harry leaps up on the wall and starts to drag the boy over, as a border-guard, sickened by the horror unfolding before him yet terrified not to follow orders, points his rifle, and an American officer warns Harry about creating an in-

ternational incident. Like today's depressing headlines from Iraq and the "Gulag" of Guantanamo, *The Tunnel* captures a harrowing time when good people struggled to do the right thing, if they could only figure out just what that might be. *Now playing.* ▼

Davis commits murder

Finds love, goes bald, and plays Crawford

by Tavo Amador

No one's as good as Bette when she's bad," crowed Warners about their legendary Miss Davis (1908-89). Several of her most memorable performances, allowing her a full range of tribulations, are in *The Bette Davis Collection* on DVD.

The years '38-'44 were Davis' peak, and four of the films in the set are perfect examples of the vehicles Warners crafted for her. In *Dark Victory* ('39), Davis is a reckless, wealthy, young society woman who is diagnosed with a brain tumor and told she doesn't have too much time to live. She falls in love with her doctor (George Brent), and they have a happy life until one day, gardening, she loses her vision, and knows the end is near. Geraldine Fitzgerald is her closest friend, and the young Ronald Reagan is one of her many swains. Humphrey Bogart plays a rather surly Irish stable-boy. Davis conveys energy and elation as few actresses could, and she is riveting here. The film, directed by bisexual Edmund Goulding, was a smash and Davis' personal favorite, earning her an Oscar nomination, which she lost to Vivien Leigh in *Gone With the Wind*.

In *The Letter* ('40), from gay author Somerset Maugham's story, Davis gives her finest dramatic performance as the murderous, unfaithful wife of rubber plantation owner Herbert Marshall. Set in Malaysia during British colonial rule, it's filled with subtle and obvious racism. Under William Wyler's expert direction, Davis' familiar mannerisms are used brilliantly to convey tension and sexual hypocrisy. Only her intense conviction could make the confrontation with her dead lover's Eurasian



widow (a campy Gale Sondergaard) believable. She lost the Best Actress Oscar to Ginger Rogers' Kitty Foyle.

Now, *Voyager* ('42) casts Davis as a prominent Boston family's frumpy old maid with a domineering mother (Gladys Cooper), who is transformed by love for a psychiatrist (Paul Henreid) into a soignée and independent young woman. Alas, Henreid has a weird daughter, who, with Davis' help, makes great strides in overcoming her various mental phobias. One critic wrote about Davis, "There is no actress in Hollywood more expert at giving an intelligent reading of a part that should never have been written." Her Charlotte Vale is a perfect example of what he meant. It did give her a famous line, uttered when Henreid simultaneously lights their cigarettes. "Oh, Jerry, don't let's ask for the moon — we have the stars!" The film is nonsense, but more fun than much better movies. Cooper is terrific as the bitchy, selfish matriarch. With Ilka Chase. This time, Davis lost the Best Actress Oscar to Greer Garson's *Mrs. Miniver*.

The great Claude Rains is *Mr. Skeffington* ('44), and Davis is his

Edwardian society belle wife, Fanny. She dumps him and has
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Homosexuality and politics in the '60s

'Advise and Consent' is still striking and surprisingly timely

by Tavo Amador

The President wants the Senate to confirm a controversial cabinet nominee. Some members of his majority party are opposed, as are the minority. A committee holds hearings at which the nominee's questionable past comes to light. Backroom dealing, blackmail, and media posturing obscure the candidate's merits. Sound familiar? No, this isn't about George W. Bush's attempt to make John Bolton the United Nations Ambassador. Instead, it's Otto Preminger's fast-paced film based on Allen Drury's bestselling potboiler *Advise and Consent* ('62), now out in DVD. It's also an early look at the politics of homosexuality.

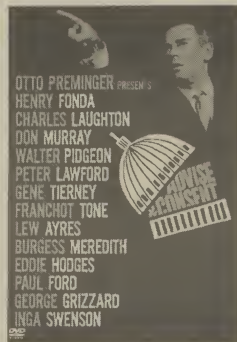
Majority Leader Bob Munson (a driven Walter Pidgeon) warns the seriously ill President (Francis Taylor) that confirming his nominee Robert Leffingwell (Henry Fonda) for Secretary of State isn't a slam-dunk, even though their party controls the Senate. Munson is especially worried about opposition from a leading member of their party, the senior Senator from South Carolina, Ceeb Cooley (a marvelous Charles Laughton). Munson names Utah Senator Brigham Anderson (Don Murray) to chair the subcommittee that will hear the nominee's testimony. By doing so, he alienates the sanctimonious,

ambitious, but unwavering Leffingwell supporter Senator Fred Van Ackerman (a sleazy George Grizzard).

The shadow of the cold war looms over the entire film. Leffingwell is a liberal prepared to compromise with the Soviet Union, a position Cooley and members of the minority party headed by Will Geer (long before *The Waltons*) find unacceptable. The outcome is likely to be so close that VP Harley Hudson (Lew Ayres) may have to cast the deciding vote.

Cooley encourages Herbert Gilman (Burgess Meredith), a Treasury Department clerk, to testify about his earlier dealings with Leffingwell. Gilman says that when he was a student at the University of Chicago, he attended meetings of a communist cell that included Leffingwell, who used an alias. Leffingwell denies the accusations and discredits Gilman. But he later reveals to a friend that he lied at the hearing. At the same time, it's clear he's no communist.

The happily married, principled Anderson is determined to give Leffingwell a fair chance. Soon, however, his wife (Inga Swenson, years before *Benson*) starts getting strange phone calls. Anderson dismisses them, telling her to hang up on the caller. She doesn't, but cannot learn what they are about. Anderson won't tell her. Van Ackerman and his entourage are behind the calls, which, it's later revealed, deal with



a gay relationship Anderson had with Raymond Shaff (John Granger) while both were in the military in Hawaii. It's also revealed that Shaff's attempts to talk to or see Anderson have been unsuccessful.

In the bars

The calls increase, and Anderson's wife demands to know the truth, suspecting he's had an affair with another woman. Stonewalling, desperate, Anderson goes to New York, looking for Shaff. He visits an obese queen, Manuel (Larry Tucker), whose apartment is used for assignments. Manuel gives Anderson the address of a bar. When the Senator arrives, he hears Frank Sinatra on the jukebox, but everything else is unfamiliar — he looks

shocked by the all-male clientele. The campy bartender (Sidney Gould) invites him to join them, but Anderson, after spotting Shaff, flees. Shaff follows him out, calling, "Brig, Brig!" On the street, Anderson pushes Shaff away and jumps into a cab.

On the return flight to DC, Anderson meets the Vice President, who, sensing the Senator is troubled, offers help. Anderson declines. Back in Washington, he heads to his office. He's too honest to vote for Leffingwell, despite the blackmailing pressure to do so. But he fears the consequences of exposing his liaison with Shaff. The outcome is tragic, but typical of the era and its depiction of homosexuals. So, alas, is Anderson's hysteria at being in a gay bar — the first one ever shown in a mainstream Hollywood movie.

The veteran cast is uniformly good. Although first-billed, Fonda only has a few scenes, in which he brilliantly conveys Leffingwell's basic integrity, intelligence, experience and qualifications. The gay Laughton, in his last role, steals every scene he's in as a Jesse Helms-type Senator. The normally placid Pidgeon is animated, sharp, cynical, and loyal, his finest

performance. Murray is sympathetic, conveying honor and fairness without being self-congratulatory. As the dying President, Tone is moving, but a political realist. Ayres is also fine as the underestimated VP. Grizzard is repellent as the unscrupulous but loyal Van Ackerman. Gene Tierney, as a society hostess/power-broker, is marvelous in her few scenes, as is Peter Lawford, playing a womanizing bachelor Senator. (He was, at the time, President Kennedy's brother-in-law.) Swenson shows conviction as the loyal, confused wife. The gay Geer is terrific as a cynical Southern bigot. Betty White has a bit as a Senator, whom she plays with Sue Ann Nivens-like bitchiness.

In the four decades since the movie was released, we still have no openly gay senators, although several out gay men and lesbians serve in the House and have for many years. Homosexuality is now debated in terms of same-sex marriage and serving openly in the military, a sign of great progress, but, given the fury of our enemies, an indication of how much seemingly invincible ignorance and bigotry must be overcome. ▽

Frank Sinatra's big gay movie

by David Nahmod

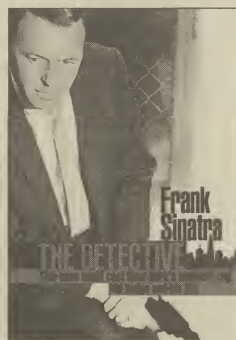
The Detective (1968) Fox DVD

Las Vegas, 1960. Ol' Blue Eyes was singing at the Sands Hotel. Della Reese was his opening act. JFK was in the White House, and the civil rights movement was picking up steam. Yet in Sin City, not much had changed. Ms. Reese, a black featured performer at the hotel, had to enter the building through the service entrance, and was only allowed to eat her meals in the kitchen with the hotel staff.

Frank Sinatra was appalled. According to Reese, who still tells the tale to this day, Sinatra personally escorted her through the hotel's main lobby and brought her into the main dining area. He ordered dinner for the lady, and informed hotel management that he would not be going on stage until she was served and had eaten.

The hotel's segregation policy was broken for all time by that one act of defiance. Throughout the Rat Pack years, Sinatra enacted similar acts of rebellion at various Vegas venues for his friend Sammy Davis, Jr. He was a vocal supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Did Sinatra support gay rights? Though I've not heard of any specific stories regarding this, he did, in 1968, make a film about a taboo subject, and his character was the film's lone sympathetic voice. One year before the Stonewall riots, gays in New York City were routinely roughed up by the police, had no rights and no support beyond their own community. Gays were, in '68, reviled and despised simply because we existed. Have things changed?



In *The Detective*, Sinatra plays Joe Leland, a New York City detective trapped in a bad marriage to a neurotic nymphomaniac, Karen (Lee Remick). He and his partner are at a crime scene. A man who is "clearly a homosexual" has been bludgeoned to death and sliced into bits. In the midst of this bloodbath, officers are shaking their heads, insinuating that the victim probably brought it on himself. "Those people make me sick," offers one officer. Only Detective Leland stands up to their hate, reminding them they are talking about human beings, that everyone has a right to live.

We see how horrible it was to be gay two generations ago. In searching for the killer, the police go to "the trucks," a popular gay cruising spot by the pier. There, they round up a group of young gay men. The cruisers are physically pushed around for no reason, subjected to taunts and jeers, threatened with outing.

"Don't tell my parents," one young man pleads in tears. One gay man stands up to the police,

page 44 ►

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Intimations of mortality

by Robert Julian

Specimen Days by Michael Cunningham; Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$25

It should come as no surprise that best-selling author Michael Cunningham (*The Hours*, *A Home at the End of the World*) thinks of himself as "writing optimistic novels full of death." He is, after all, a gay man of a certain age, one who has so far survived the holocaust of AIDS. In his new novel, *Specimen Days*, Cunningham turns away from homosexuality to offer three heterosexual humanist novellas, each written in a different genre. If you were to stumble across them on television, the first novella would appear as a re-run from *The Twilight Zone*; the second would be an episode of *CSI*; and the third would be a made-for-TV sequel to Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*.

The first entry in Cunn-

ingham's triumvirate is a rather grisly ghost story called *In the Machine*. It takes place in 19th-century Lower Manhattan, and its conclusion incorporates the infamous sweat-shop fire that forced locked-in seamstresses to jump to their deaths from the upper floors of a building. The second story, *The Children's Crusade*, is a post-9/11 tale of urban angst involving an NYPD forensic psychologist and a gaggle of adolescent suicide bombers. And the final installment, *Like Beauty*, is a science fiction tale of aliens and androids on the run, attempting to escape post-apocalyptic Manhattan.

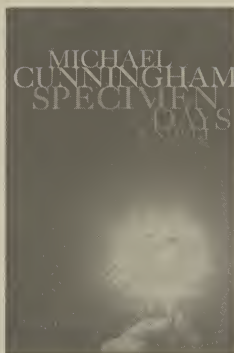
In addition to the Manhattan setting, Cunningham employs several leitmotifs to connect these three superficially dissimilar stories. The most prominent theme is Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, which is quoted liberally throughout each novella. In addition, Central Park's Bethesda Fountain and a particular porcelain bowl appear in each story. Also in each story, people strive desperately for

an intimate, nurturing human connection to someone else — not always with success.

Cunningham writes eloquent, sophisticated prose that demonstrates an extraordinary command of the English language. In *Specimen Days*, he creates believable characters and interesting stories, with only a few dangling plot-points to mar the overall impact of his work. Although I have no interest in science fiction whatsoever, the final novella, *Like Beauty*, is probably the most extraordinary and moving segment. The main character, Simon, is a tattooed, renegade "simulo" (engineered robot) who works the Rambles of Central Park providing fake muggings for tourists who book him

through travel agents. When Simon crosses the line of acceptable simulo behavior, he heads for the wilds of Colorado in the company of Catareen, a lizard-like alien governess and fugitive from the planet Nadia. These two non-humans, and their unusual bond, demonstrate a hunger for life and acceptance of death that is the philosophical embodiment of Cunningham's current muse, Whitman.

Specimen Days rewards in unexpected ways; Cunningham's narrative is unpredictable, atypical, and multifaceted. Its certain success will undoubtedly keep the author's name at the forefront of contemporary American novels. ▼



Michael Cunningham will appear at Book Passage in Corte Madera at 1 p.m. on June 16; and at Kepler's Books at 7:30 p.m. on June 17.

Know thyself

by Robert Julian

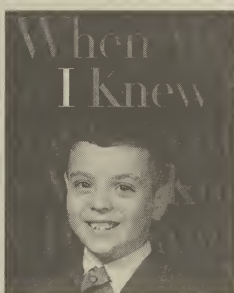
When I Knew edited by Robert Trachtenberg; HarperCollins, \$22.95

There comes a time in the life of every homosexual when he or she figures it out. The concept may be startling, and its implications far from clear, but every lesbian or gay man can recall a moment when that lightbulb went on and left them standing in the glare of queer self-understanding. In *When I Knew*, editor Robert Trachtenberg assembles over 100 lesbian and gay voices who explain what that moment was for them, and how it revealed itself.

Most of the entries in *When I Knew* are extremely brief, but all of them are accompanied by Tom Bachtell's wonderful color illus-

trations. And almost all the contributors present their personal moments of gay revelation with the predictable tongue-in-cheek comic overtones. A firmly entrenched ironic sensibility, it appears, is the one gay stereotype that holds up under close scrutiny. Robert Bryan's entry comes complete with his sepia-tone high school graduation picture; Michael Musto and Jeff Judd both reveal their sexual obsessions with hunky Ron Ely (TV's Tarzan); and in the book's first entry, Andrew Freedman succinctly explains, "My father was watching the evening news. The announcer said that Judy Garland had died. I fainted. I was nine."

HarperCollins gives *When I Knew* a nice presentation, with thick paper and beautiful color printing, resulting in a book that is a perfect miniature coffee table



tome. The 100-plus contributors don't really break any new ground, but their cumulative efforts generate lots of smiles. *When I Knew* could be a great gift for those who are newly out of the closet, or their parents. And although the moment referenced in the book's title usually arrives with no shortage of Sturm und Drang, in retrospect, it almost always morphs into a light-hearted remembrance. Funny how life works, no? ▼

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Theatre Rhino

◀ page 35

through the lives and loves of three men.

To mark the end of 2005, lesbian comic Marga Gomez is returning for another New Year's Eve special, with two performances scheduled on Dec. 31. The first show of the New Year is unknown, but Rhino promises "another scintillating play

with a lesbian theme." Adds Fisher, "It's hard to find good lesbian plays."

In March, solo artist Mike Albo (*Spray*) returns to Rhino with *Please Everything Birthed*, his latest comic take on life in the consumer age.

Rhino will close its season in April with a new Fisher original: *Ishi, Last of the Yahi*. This is Fisher's take on the famous anthropological treatise *Ishi, Last of His Tribe*, about a Native American

provided food and shelter in the Bay Area so he could be studied.

"It's always been very interesting to me, his status, and how that relates to homosexuals at the turn of the century, how they were sort of novelty items," Fisher said. "I'm doing it all through the lens of a gay graduate student who learns about himself as he researches Ishi."

For information on season subscriptions, call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org. ▼

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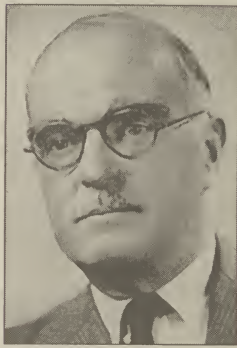
THEATRE

The stage would never be the same

Gay and lesbian playwrights who transformed American drama

by Tavo Amador

The celebration of Pride month provides a good reason to reflect on the astonishing impact gay and lesbian playwrights have had on American drama. Individually and collectively, they revolutionized the theatre, creating art while helping audiences see society from new perspectives. In many cases, their sexual orientation wasn't disclosed, making it imperative to reclaim our history.



Thornton Wilder: deceptively simple.

Novelist Thornton Wilder (1897-1975) first made an impact as a dramatist with *Our Town* ('38), a Pulitzer Prize-winning look at small-town America over many years that is deceptively simple, but powerful and perennially popular, as the recent, acclaimed Broadway revival starring Paul Newman proved. The narrator, both an outsider and member of the community, may be a metaphor for the closeted author. Wilder won another Pulitzer for *The Skin of Our Teeth* ('42), a tale of one family over a 5,000-year period. The original production starred the legendary bisexual Tallulah Bankhead as Sabina, the wise-cracking maid, one of her greatest roles. *The Matchmaker* ('55) would be the basis for the musical *Hello, Dolly!*



Tennessee Williams: sexual longings.

Wilder didn't deal directly with homosexuality in his plays, but openly gay Tennessee Williams (1911-83) did. Williams' first success was *The Glass Menagerie* ('45), a masterpiece of family dynamics, passions, and anger that has been produced more than any English language play excepting Shakespeare's works. Structurally, it's dreamlike and cinematic, yet crackling with tension. The narrator in *Our Town* may have influenced the character of Tom, who speaks directly to the audience,

then re-enters the drama. Two years later, Williams rocked Broadway with *A Streetcar Named Desire*, winning a Pulitzer. As Stanley Kowalski, Marlon Brando became a star and the first post-WWII male sex symbol. Stanley's visiting sister-in-law, Blanche DuBois, is haunted by her late husband's homosexuality and the unintended consequences of her cruelty. Her clash with Stanley is terrifying, heart-breaking, and unforgettable, with Williams' gift for memorable dialogue at its best. *Summer and Smoke* failed, *The Rose Tattoo* was a modest hit, and *Camino Real* flopped, but *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* ('55), was a smash, earning another Pulitzer. Homosexuality, repressed but potent, was central to the story about the relationship between an alcoholic ex-football star and his dead buddy. Homosexuality was also the subject of two one act plays, *Suddenly, Last Summer* and *Something Unspoken*, collectively produced as *Garden District*.

Williams had two more hits, *Sweet Bird of Youth* ('59) and *The Night of the Iguana* ('61), before a long series of failures. Many critics attacked him for being gay, insisting that the sexual longings of his female characters made them transvestites. Women knew better, and today Williams is ranked, with Eugene O'Neill, as America's greatest dramatist, with his works regularly revived on Broadway and around the country. The ending of O'Neill's masterpiece, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, was no doubt influenced by Blanche's final scenes in *Streetcar*.



William Inge: frustrated dreams.

Williams helped William Inge (1913-73) get recognition — the two men briefly had an affair. Inge's first success was *Come Back, Little Sheba* ('50), about an unhappy marriage filled with frustrated dreams. *Picnic* ('52) is an explosive look at small-town passions and aspirations. *Bus Stop* ('55) is about a minimally talented but vulnerable singer who finds romance with a modern-day cowboy. The autobiographical *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* ('57) beautifully depicts a family during the '20s in a small Kansas town: the gentle mother; the dynamic, failed father; the adolescent daughter; the dreamy son who escapes at the movies; and the mother's unhappy sister. Inge's subsequent plays failed, although he won an Oscar for his original screenplay *Splendor in the Grass* ('61). Alcoholic and reclusive, he committed suicide.

Best and brightest

Although primarily a novelist, Gore Vidal (b. 1925) wrote two

successful plays, *Visitor from a Small Planet* ('55) and a political thriller centering on blackmail of a married presidential candidate accused of past homosexual relations, *The Best Man* ('60).



Lorraine Hansberry: racial divide.

African American lesbian Lorraine Hansberry (1930-65) added her unique perspective to family drama with *A Raisin in the Sun* ('59), which starred Sidney Poitier. This powerful story about a struggling black family helped bridge America's racial divide and underscored the importance of moral — but not moralistic — values. Hansberry died prematurely from cancer, but authored one other Broadway play, *The Sign in Sidney Brunstein's Window*

('64), which wasn't a success.

Edward Albee (b. 1928) startled Broadway with *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* ('62). The play, currently enjoying an acclaimed revival, is a scathing portrayal of a dysfunctional marriage. Some homophobes claimed that the central couple, Martha and George, were disguised homosexual men, a charge not unlike those leveled earlier at Williams, and one steadfastly rejected by the openly gay Albee. He'd win the Pulitzer denying him for *Wolf with A Delicate Balance* ('66), another harsh look at marriage and family. *Tiny Alice and Seascapes* ('75), for which he won another Pulitzer, failed commercially, and Albee would have a very long wait before the successful *Three Tall Women* ('94) and *The Goat or, Who Is Sylvia?* (2002). His classic one-act plays *The American Dream*, *The Death of Bessie Smith* and *The Zoo Story* have never lost their popularity or high repute.

Lanford Wilson (b.'37) made his mark with *The Hot I Baltimore* ('73), presenting a cross-section of lonely, alienated people living in a rundown hotel. He had other successes with *The Fifth of July* ('78) and its Pulitzer winning sequel, *Talley's Folly* ('79), both featuring openly gay characters.

Terence McNally (b. '39), once Albee's partner, is one of the most versatile of contemporary dramatists. He's written a brilliant farce, *The Ritz* ('75), set in a gay bathhouse (modeled on Manhattan's

legendary Continental Baths, where the unknown Bette Midler performed); *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune* ('87), a touching heterosexual romance; *The Lisbon Traviata* ('89), a tragic comedy about lonely opera queens obsessed with Maria Callas; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* ('91), about irrational fears of homosexuals and AIDS; *Love! Valor! Compassion!* ('94), a scathing, affecting drama of AIDS and its impact on a circle of gay male friends; the books for the award-winning musicals *The Kiss of the Spider Woman* ('92) and *Ragtime* ('97); the tour de force *Master Class* ('95), about Callas; and the controversial *Corpus Christi* ('97), portraying Jesus and his disciples as gay men, which bigots tried to keep from being staged.

Like Wilder, Williams, and Albee, Tony Kushner (b.1956) re-defined drama with his astonishing, operatic, two-part *Angels in America* (first produced in San Francisco in '90, then on Broadway in '93), for which he won a Pulitzer and almost every other award. This epic look at the AIDS crisis and how people in power reacted to it — or ignored it — is filled with memorable characters, fictional and historical, and deftly blends fantasy, religion, tragedy, and often hilarious comedy. His most recent production was *Caroline, or Change* (2004), a musical about a Louisiana youth and his family's black maid during the civil rights era. ▼

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Brotherly love

Rodney Evans on 'Brother to Brother'

by Gregg Shapiro

Brother to Brother, the feature-length independent debut from writer/director Rodney Evans, tells the story of Perry (Anthony Mackie), a young African-American gay man in New York who strikes up a friendship with Bruce (Roger Robinson), an older man who was an

important figure in the Harlem Renaissance. It's just released on DVD, including bonus features such as director commentary, deleted scenes, and the original theatrical trailer.

Gregg Shapiro: *Brother to Brother* won the Special Jury Prize at Sundance.

Rodney Evans: It was great to be acknowledged out of all the movies that were there. We worked for six years on it. It was a huge collaboration with a big ensemble cast. We shot in this very unorthodox way. We actually shot for a week in the fall of 2001, then stopped shooting for a year, then I called all the actors back, and they had to pick up where we left off. Most producers will tell you that that is suicide and you should never do that! The actors were so passionate about the material, and the script just spoke to everyone in a special way. They wanted to be a part of it and see it completed. That kept everyone involved.

The last time I saw Duane Boutte, who plays young Bruce Nugent in *Brother to Brother*, on-screen was in the late Nigel Finch's *Stonewall*.

That's actually why I called him, because I love that performance. I'm sort of a groupie for actors, and he is someone that I followed. I saw him in a play about Bayard Rustin at the Public

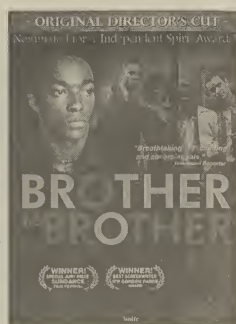
Theater. I went to see tons of off-Broadway theater with any black actors in it, and I compiled this huge list of people I thought were great, and drew on that pool of talent. He was definitely part of the list.

The film has a few different subplots, all of which are handled with grace. One storyline deals with families that reject gay children.

Partially, the inspiration behind the movie came from personal experiences. I have similar experiences, not necessarily that tragic. It was like taking my experiences and pushing them for dramatic purposes. Saying, what if it did get to that extreme? What does a young person in that situation do? What kind of surrogate families do you form? How do you trust or not trust other people? I talked to kids from Hetrick-Martin, the gay high school in New York. A lot of those kids have gone through that. A large part of the homeless youth population is gay and lesbian. How do you pick yourself up after that happens and become a functioning human being with a certain kind of resilience that can withstand that?

Another storyline is the romantic and sexual relationships between gay men of African-American and white backgrounds.

Wallace Thurmond had this



white Canadian lover named Harold who was blonde and tall. I tried to stay true to the experiences they were going through. Young Bruce had this thing for Italian gangsters. That was who he cruised at these straight Italian gangster bars, who he seduced into sleeping with him. That was his thing. In the present-day story, I wanted Perry to make himself vulnerable with someone who did not come from or understand his background. I think there is a poignancy that comes from that search to find a common ground.

Do you want to further explore the contributions made by queer writers and artists during the Harlem Renaissance?

I never say never, but I don't know if I want to do something so similar to *Brother to Brother*. That took so long to create. But there is so much in the Harlem Renaissance to deal with. I just put together this 40-book reading list for our website. Every one of those writers could have their own feature film. ▼

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L.I.E.

◀ Arts cover

and his housebreaking buddies comes straight from his own memories of being a brash 15-year-old swapping adolescent sexual boasts with friends at the local pizza parlor. "My thinking was that 15-year-olds would find any way to get it."

L.I.E. topped my list of the best queer films of 2001. I cited the performances of Paul Dano (winner of the Independent Spirit Award for Best Debut Performance) and veteran Scotch-Irish stage actor Brian Cox (*L.I.E.* would help him become one of the most bankable character actors in the business).

Dano gives an astonishingly intuitive performance as a young man who comes at your heart from every imaginable direction. Howie's best friend, Gary (Long Island native Billy Kay in a saucy turn as a young hustler-in-training) is stringing Howie along with sweet talk. In a campfire scene, Gary suggests they swap secrets. Howie confesses, "I've never really been with a girl."

The movie is really a meditation on what it means to be a father in these anxious times. Brian Cox plays Big John Harrigan as if

he were Big John Wayne rather than the proprietor of an island of lost boys. Cuesta allows Howie to turn the tables on Big John, to seduce the predator with poetry, his and Walt Whitman's. Our hearts are in our throats as we watch Howie and John walk the slippery line between father/son, lover/beloved and predator/victim. *L.I.E.* is finally the story of a boy who finds what's his in a long dark night of the soul.

Snake eyes

In the new DVD, Cuesta takes us through the 24-day shoot that covered the landscape of his Dix Hills childhood. He discusses the lucky accident of spotting a guy holding a snake on location. The viper turned into a nifty prop for Gary which, along with a stolen animal fur, gives Billy Kay the gender-fucking swagger of a young Jim Morrison. "We decided to give Gary the fur because he thinks he's so sexy. It's not about hetero or homosexuality, it's just about feeling your oats."

One of Cuesta's organic choices came in a scene, totally improvised on the set, where Howie plays with his dead mom's lipstick and makeup. "What's left of his late mother is her femininity and her scent, and I thought it would be a tactile experience for him to

remember her by putting on her face. It also explores sexuality and its relation to his mom."

The famous "campfire" scene between Howie and Gary was an inspiration of his director of photography. It was originally meant to be shot in the pizza parlor, but he realized that its intimate subtext demanded an intimate setting. "Thank god, because it's one of my favorite scenes in the movie."

Cuesta jokes about his hesitancy to sign Paul Dano for Howie despite Dano's absolutely nailing the audition. "He was like the eighth kid to read, and I thought I had to suffer for art and read 500 kids. Paul is a great natural actor. He has a way of non-acting that's a gift, a rare talent." By now Dano has demonstrated his talent in a number of edgy independent films, including Rebecca Miller's *The Ballad of Jack and Rose*.

The DVD provides convincing illustrations of why deleted scenes are cut from a finished film, and offers dueling commentary tracks in which Cuesta and actor Cox give their different takes on the character of Big John. *L.I.E.* demonstrates that even a straight family man can make an awesome film with a distinctly queer sensibility. This is a DVD to buy and treasure. ▼

The Detective

◀ page 40

reminds them that he does indeed have rights. He is rewarded with a brutal punch in the stomach.

Once again, Leland comes forward to put a stop to the brutality. He gives the cop who punched the young man a similar punch. Leland, like Sinatra himself, is not afraid to speak up when he sees injustice. Posters at imdb.com have called scenes such as these

homophobic. Perhaps they are. But they are also the reality of what our lives were like decades ago. In parts of the country and the world, we are still treated like this today.

As the story progresses, we see the true horrors of the closets we were forced to live in. The murderer, it turns out, is another gay man who had been threatened with outing.

Is *The Detective* a great film? No, but it is a courageous one. That Fox was willing to bankroll

such a project, that major stars like Sinatra, Remick and Jacqueline Bisset (as the killer's wife) were willing to lend their talents to a film on such a taboo subject is most impressive. Crudely shot in parts, and featuring some dated, '60s-style hip, New York tough-guy dialogue, it is certainly no masterpiece.

Yet in spite of these flaws, *The Detective* stands out as an important historical document. It's one of the few films that shows the harsh realities of our gay past. ▼

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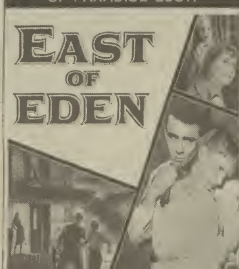
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Truth and consequences

Two pianists with greatly contrasting takes

by Tim Pfaff

Valery Gergiev, whose reputation is almost as much for the quantity as the quality of his conducting, has just picked up a new job. Beginning January 1, 2007, he will be principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, the city's (and one of the world's) best. In addition to his four other standing commitments and his frenetic guest conducting, this should keep the man who seems to fear sleep safe from the terrors of Slumberland, and the rest of the world's conductors fearing unemployment.

The startling announcement came hard on the heels of the release of his latest CD, of Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto and Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini (DG) with his principal band, the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre, and Chinese pianist Lang Lang. That appeared almost simultaneously with a new CD of Rachmaninov's Second and Fourth Concertos (Warner Classics) with pianist Nikolai Lugansky and Sakari Oramo, one of the most closely watched young conductors in the business, and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, with whom the pair have recorded all the Rachmaninov works for piano and orchestra.

In the wake of gay pianist Stephen Hough's stupendous recordings of Rachmaninov's piano-orchestral works for Hyperion last year, which made the music world sit up and reconsider some of the most familiar music in the repertoire, both risk seeming passé. Still, the pairings are in their own ways fascinating.

Lang Lang first played the Second Concerto with Gergiev in Moscow the night before he played his San Francisco recital in April a year ago. While both musicians plainly share a desire to burn the candle at both ends, any deeper sympathies are hard to hear. What's fascinating is listening to Gergiev play around his supremely self-indulgent collaborator in the follow-up live concerts in Finland the following July, from which the new CD is taken.

Lang Lang's single greatest virtue, his touch, all but overwhelms these performances, which at times seem all about



Lang Lang: a virtuous touch.



Nikolai Lugansky: a firm pulse.

shameless audience manipulation. Unfortunately, with the C-minor Concerto, he gets the first words, and the exaggeratedly slow solo chords with which he introduces the piece leave no doubt that he's going to wring every bit of feeling he can out of this concerto, which is about as easy a task as a pianist can set but perhaps the most this one can hope for.

Gergiev and his band follow Lang Lang's distensions of the tempos attentively and, whenever they can, inject musical sense into the proceedings by way of articulate instrumental solos, particularly from the brass and winds.

Lang Lang has less room to hide in the Rhapsody, widely considered the best thing Rachmaninov composed for piano and orchestra. Gergiev and the orchestra give a brilliant, coherent account of this sparkling score despite having to wait out the antics of their soloist. The tremendous musical force they bring to bear on the pianist not only keeps him in line but enforces some of his most disciplined playing, which he can wiggle out of, and does, in the brief solo passages.

Out of the shadows

Lugansky's vastly more disciplined and musically interesting account of the Concerto makes you wish Gergiev had partnered him instead. Lugansky's work with Oramo and CSO has been consistently satisfying. Not that long ago, it remained to be seen whether this last disciple of the late, great Tatiana Nikolaeva would step out of her shadow and

his own personal reticence to turn into a pianist of consequence. This capstone to his Rachmaninov cycle confirms that he has.

In stark contrast to the high-glucose taffy-pull Lang Lang makes of the Second, his Russian competitor offers a big-boned reading that emphasizes the work's structure as much as its sentiment. Where Lang Lang makes fundamental changes of rhythm for no readily apparent musical reason, Lugansky maintains a strong, firm pulse that relies on more appropriate (and musically daring) rubato to keep the work's essential rhythms flexible and expressive.

While it's hardly heart-on-sleeve, Lugansky's interpretation ventures farther into unrestrained emotional expressivity, particularly in the moody middle movement, than he has in the past. His partnership with Oramo and the orchestra is also truer. There's no sense of either pandering to, or trying to control, the other. Oramo brings out many of the same orchestral details Gergiev does, if someone less pungently.

The strongest evidence of musicians working in tight, fine synch, however, is in the splendid account of the still-neglected Fourth Concerto. You can practically hear Lugansky thinking his way through this mercurial piece, but he lets his steely fingers do the talking, to often arresting effect. The feeling in the central Largo is fine-grained yet firm, forceful, and rather haunting. The outer movements feature rippling, sometimes biting ferocity. This is tip-top Rachmaninov playing. ▽

Hush Up!

◀ page 36

pretty bad attempt at Southern Gothic horror, focusing on a rich and maybe mad recluse (the Davis role) trying to save her Louisiana mansion from developers. She turns to her cousin (the De Havilland role) for help, but it soon becomes clear that Cousin Miriam has her own agenda. Helping and hurting that agenda are the family doctor, a loyal servant, and an insurance investigator.

The screenplay has been comically embellished, yet remains fairly true to the screen version. This means there are dozens of scenes, some no longer than a few seconds, and this can be tricky business when a blackout and pause must follow each scene. This becomes taxing especially in the second act, as the plot becomes more and more convoluted, and longer pauses are needed to effect the scene changes. But in

many cases, the scenes play out like a sketch or sight gag, and we're carried merrily along.

Martin and Roberson have good comic foils in Sandra Schlechter as the mousy servant and Michael Sousa as the drawling family doctor. As the nosy insurance inspector, Andre C. Andree creates a cute little Englishman, but he can't save his scene with a murdered man's widow, played by Erika Atkinson in a performance not quite bad enough to be good.

You don't have to know the original movie to enjoy this production, but an awareness of and appreciation for film clichés is definitely a plus. Bad movies usually make the best parodies, and *Hush Up* is proof. ▽

Hush Up! Sweet Charlotte will run at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre through Aug. 31. Tickets are \$27-\$32. Call 474-8800 or go to makeitsoproductions.org.

Mambo Kings

◀ page 37

red lighting and steam coming out of the scenery. It almost works as a parody, but the creators' don't have that kind of sense of humor. Veteran Cuban songstress Albita, as a club owner, has a full-throttle voice that is always welcome, but misguidedly, she is also required to slog through the prosaic narration.

The show does look good, with its lavish costumes, sets, and lighting that fill the maw of the Golden Gate Theatre, and the orchestra emits propulsive sounds from its perch above the stage. But *The Mambo Kings* is less a nostalgic celebration than a lesson in the pitfalls of copying from the past. ▽

The Mambo Kings will run at the Golden Gate Theatre through June 19. Tickets are \$25-\$85. Call 512-7770 or go to bestofbroadway-sf.com.

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OUT & ABOUT



The greatest queer band on the planet, Pansy Division, will rock the crowd at San Jose Gay Pride. See Saturday & Sunday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Fresh Meat, Ruby's Clay, etc.

Now comes the mad rush. This 2005 Pride season, as always at this time of year, the City is bursting with wild, multicolored creativity. Despite — or perhaps because of — the hardening and harshening of the economy locally as well as nationally, artists are making a bigger push than ever to make the best of things. And the best is yet to come. Last weekend saw the kickoff of the **National Queer Arts Festival**, with "QBall," a big preview of events and art staged in the theater and galleries of The LGBT Community Center, organized as always by the goddess of the festival, Pamela Peniston, NQAF Artistic Director, who was looking regal among the throngs of enthusiastic attendees, undoubtedly filled with pride at the enormous accomplishments of the many outstanding crews operating under the NQAF umbrella.

For those who love to sample from diverse cultures — and what queer hasn't harbored aspirations of milling in marketplaces in colorful out-of-the-way nations? — the NQAF is an exotic, bustling, topsy-turvy marketplace of TBLG talent, with a special emphasis on the T, as in "Fresh Meat 2005," for instance. Fresh Meat's Artistic Director, Sean Dorsey, a powerhouse performer with a lively spirit and devastating sexy looks, has a unique knack for showcasing his hip-hop generation's finest queer artists, all in an evening's work. Dorsey is a transgender modern dance choreographer and head honcho for this showcase of dancers, spoken-word artists and others who will blow your mind. At Fresh Meat you get homo hip hop, gender-bending trapeze, tranny glam rock, queer burlesque, genderqueer modern dance, all-girl breakdance and the world's first transgender barber-shop quartet. Sean and partner Mair Culbreth will dance and be brilliant. Plus you get Shawna Virago, one of my faves, a tranny rocker who deftly tackles issues including police abuse, transphobia and the myth of democracy. Check the Thursday listing for details.

In the Castro last Sunday my friend Michael Sexton happened to be spending the early evening casting day at **Ruby's Clay Studio** on Noe Street. I dropped by with our mutual friend visiting from Berlin, and Michael was kind enough to give us an informal tour. He's a novice in the studio, but knew his way around well enough, and I was dazzled. It was my first visit there, and I had no idea the Castro boasted such a lively, fascinating collection of artists and their work.

I'd recently learned of Ruby's 40-year history from long-time studio member Kent Toole, who alerted me to Ruby's official Pride Celebration coming up June 16 (see listing). What I found on my visit was something almost out of the Lord of the Rings — a world so alien and fascinating, with little warrens inhabited by industrious artisans churning out incredibly beautiful objects, some utilitarian (such as those remarkable flower urinals), and some purely decorative and magical. What a treasure Ruby's is! The celebration will be well worth a short hike up steep Noe Street. ▼



Fresh Meat delivers the goods.

Fri 10

Cowell Connections @ Old First Church

The SF Composers Chamber Orchestra presents "Cowell Connections," featuring the belated West Coast premiere of California iconoclast Henry Cowell's Symphony No. 13 ("Madras"). The work of Henry Cowell — who taught composition to George Gershwin, John Cage and Lou Harrison — attracted international attention in his day but has since been neglected. After spending three and a half years in San Quentin in the 30's on a morals charge, the career of the gay Bay Area composer slipped out of the mainstream. Important pieces in his prolific output never received a fair hearing. His piano pieces are now enjoying a revival and SFCOO is resurrecting one of his 20 symphonies. \$15 general, \$12 students and seniors. Fri., June 10 at 8pm. Old First Presbyterian Church, 1751 Sacramento St. at Van Ness. Tix: 415-474-1608; oldfirstconcerts.org; ticketweb.com, and at the door.

Joe Goode @ YBCA Theater

Joe Goode Performance Group presents "Hometown" and "Grace." Hometown is a fusion of high-voltage dance, theater, song and video all linked together in a raw urban landscape that some call "home," created with composer Beth Custer, the Joe Goode company artists, and four hip SF and East Bay inner-city teen videographers from TILT (Teaching Intermediate Literary Tools). Also: encore presentation of "Grace," last season's acclaimed work exploring how ordinary lives experience moments of revelation. "Grace" is the second work in Goode's trilogy and set to a musical score by Mikel Rouse. \$20-\$38. Fri., June 10, at 8pm, followed by post-performance discussion. Also runs Sat., June 11 at 8pm; Sun., June 12 at 7pm; Fri., June 17 at 8pm; Sat., June 18 at 8pm; and Sun., June 19 at 7pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St. Tix: 415/978-2787; www.ybca.org. Info: www.joegoode.org

Somewhere In Between @ SomArts

National Queer Arts Festival and Queer Cultural Center present Somewhere In Between, written by Ronny Almog, Israeli Trans playwright. \$5. June 10-13 @ 7:30pm (Sat. 7pm). Info: www.queerculturalcenter.org

Rally the Troupes! @ SomArts

NQAF & Qcc present Rally the Troupes! A night of savvy political and sexy performance art featuring The Transformers, Burlesque-que, Nappy Grooves, Jay Walker, Bolesque, Linda Lakes, The Fly Guys, The Dancers, The Lost Boys, Diamond Daggers, and more. Emceed by Mica Mosley. \$5-\$15 sliding. Doors at 8pm; show at 9pm. Res/info: 415-864-4124; queerculturalcenter.org

'A Nation of Want' @ SF LGBT Center

QueLaCo & Qcc present "A Nation of Want," an evening with Ricardo Brachio & Cherrie Moraga. \$10 adv; \$15 door; \$5 student/disabled (NOTA). Res/info: 415-864-4124; queerculturalcenter.org

Transforming Community @ SF LGBT Center

NQAF & Qcc present Transforming Community, curated by Michelle Tea, exploring the friction at the intersection of contemporary trans and queer communities. With Lynn Breedlove, The Hillman, Katastrophie, Julia Serano, Max Wolf Valerio, Marcus Rene Van and Shawna Virago. Free. 7:30pm. June 9-11 & 23. The Center, Rainb o' Room. Info: 415-864-4124; queerculturalcenter.org

Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte @ Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

Opening night gala: Make It So Productions presents Drag Superstars Matthew Martin as "Charlotte" and Varla Jean Merman (aka Jeffery Robertson) as "Miriam" in Hush Up, Sweet Charlotte, directed by Matthew Martin, a side-splitting parody of the original book & cult film Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte (1964) which starred Bette Davis and Olivia De Havilland. \$27-\$32 other nights (\$5 off students, seniors, groups of 10). 8pm (2pm Sun.). Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. at Mason (Union Square). Tix/info: 415-474-8800; TIX Union Square; ticketweb.com. Info: www.makesitso productions.org

AIDS: The Made for TV Musical @ New College

Ghosttown Productions, the experimental theater company, presents "AIDS: The Made for TV Musical!" — a new rock-theater extravaganza that looks into what could happen when a cure for AIDS is discovered.

In this darkly comedic vision, those resistant to the cure are quarantined in a house, destined to live out their remaining days on a global reality TV show. Directed by Dwayne Calizo & Zachary Barnett. Music, lyric & concept by Calizo. Movement collaboration with Jessica Fudim. \$10-\$15 (NOTA). June 7-11 @ 7pm. 777 Valencia St. (btwn 18th/19th). Res: 415-437-3487. Info: www.epiarts.org

Company Chaddick @ Project Artaud Theatre

Cheryl Chaddick presents Company Chaddick's 20th Anniversary season, featuring repertory works and the premiere of The Calling, a look at the sensations of long-term confinement and repression of the heart and mind, and the body's fight to understand and be freed of the prison of our past. Dancers include Jennifer Wright, now in her 20th year with the company, as well as Chaddick herself, who has been presenting work in the Bay Area for 20 years. Her style, technique and training are strongly influenced by 15 years of Graham, 12 years of Limon, and 10 years of classical ballet. \$20. 8pm Fri. & Sat.; 7pm Sun. Runs June 10-12/17-19. Project Artaud, 450 Florida St. (btwn 17th & Alabama). Tix: 415-392-4400; www.cityboxoffice.com

Medea: The Musical @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros presents Medea: The Musical, a rollicking backstage musical of love, lust, adventure and ambition, written/directed by John Fisher (The Joy of Gay Sex, Combat!, Tlust!, Amnesia). \$15-\$28. Runs thru June 19. 8pm Wed-Sat.; 3pm & 7pm Sun. (no 3pm on 5/29). The Rhino, 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission/S. Van Ness). Tix: 415-552-4100 ext 104; www.therhino.org

Spencer Day & Crimson Club: Someday, Love @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center's 2005 In Concert Series presents Spencer Day and The Crimson Club (Shannon Kelley, Brian Knecht, Gerri Lawlor, Sheelagh Murphy) in Someday, Love. Original music by Spencer Day; book by Day, Rafe Chase & the Crimson Club; directed by Richard "Scrumby" Koldewyn. Someday, Love is a new Noir musical about three lonely barflies imprisoned by their own lives. \$22-\$25. 8pm. Show runs thru July 3. 8pm Thu., Fri., Sat.; 2pm Sun. Series passes available (\$36 preview passes; \$60 Flex Pass; \$70 Opening Night passes; \$50 Pride Season passes). Theatre Three, NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. near Market. Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctcfs.org

Connie Champagne @ Pan Pacific Hotel

The Tin Pan Club presents Connie Champagne, the "San Francisco treat" when it comes to musical theater and cabaret, and she's one of the trend setting innovators of the performing arts coast to coast. \$15 and \$25 in advance. Door opens 7:30; show at 8:30pm. 500 Post Street at Mason. Tix 415-923-1452 or 415-929-2018 or at door. Info: www.tinpanalley.org

Tibetan Treasures Gala @ Asian Art Museum

On June 10, the Asian Art Museum/Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Art and Culture offers an exclusive first glimpse at the acclaimed exhibit, Tibet: Treasures from the Roof of the World. The Asian Art Museum is the fourth and final venue to house the exhibition. Special catering & décor complement personal treasures of centuries of Dalai Lamas and Tibetan nobility. Guests dine and dance among nearly 200 priceless objects. Attendees invited to pose with yaks dressed in Tibetan costume. Individual Gala Ticket: \$350. 6:30-8pm cocktail reception and exhibition viewing. 8-9pm seated black-tie dinner. 9pm-12am desserts, dancing and continued exhibition viewing. Asian Art Museum/Chong-Moon Lee Center for Art and Culture, 200 Larkin St. Info/tix: Jackie Rormey, Asian Art Museum, 415-581-3776 or 415-581-3783; jroomey@asianart.org

Shizam! @ The Transfer

Shizam! A one night queer romp benefiting AIDS Walk San Francisco. DJ's Baby Blue Hanky and Melissa spin rock, hip hop and other eclectic beats with surprise guest appearances from our local queer underground. Expect door prizes, dancers and other treats. \$3-\$5 (NOTA/FLOP). Fri., June 10. 9pm-2am. The Transfer, 198 Church St @ Market

Sat 11

Free Community Day @ San Jose Gay Pride

The Weekend Celebration begins on Satur-



Hot dog! Bow Wow Wow take to the Main Stage at San Jose Gay Pride. See Sunday.

day, June 11 from noon to 6PM with the Annual Free Community Day in the Park featuring the best in local entertainment and plenty of activities for the entire family. Headlining the Free Community Day in the Park are Orchestra De Soul. The theme of this year's celebration is "Eyes on Equality," marking the 30th year of the City's celebration. The Free Day in the Park and Pride Festival will be at Discovery Meadow in Downtown San Jose. Noon-6pm.

What's Wrong with Angry? @ NCTC

Opening night: The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten closes with the Bay Area Premiere of British playwright/screenwriter Patrick Wilde's coming-of-age play What's Wrong with Angry? Directed by John Dixon. Wilde explores head on the social taboos (and in England, the laws against even schoolroom discussion) surrounding teen homosexuality. Steven Carter, who lives in the small English town of Basingstoke, is 16, sexy and gay. He is quite happy with this; it is other people who find it a problem. \$20 Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun.; \$28 Fri.; \$32 Sat.; \$40 Opening night. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; 2pm Sun. (beginning June 19). NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. near Market. Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctcfs.org

Peter Berlin Tribute @ 'The ROD'/Underground SF

"The ROD" pays tribute to '70s gay porn icon Peter Berlin, star of "That Boy" & "Nights in Black Leather," as well as the hot new documentary by Jim Tushinski, "That Man: The Peter Berlin Story," premiering June 23 at this year's Frameline 29 LGBTQ film fest. Enjoy heavy cruising & hard cocktails beneath the poppers, lube, & muscle mobiles, while freaking to the '70s/'80s retro-homo sounds of DJ Bus Station John (The Tubesack Connection) & Jef Leppard (Smut Hut/KY). \$5. 10pm-2am. Every 2nd Saturday. Underground SF (formerly The Top), 424 Haight St. (btwn Webster & Fillmore).

Gwen Araujo Dedication @ SF LGBT Center

Installation and dedication of The Angel of Justice Altar in memorial to Gwen Araujo and in spirit of all our fallen angels. The trial against Gwen's murderers has just begun and this altar will be a community response while the trial continues (estimated 6-8 weeks). Bring cosmetics and beauty supplies to donate (because Gwen always wanted to look good and had hoped to be a Hollywood make-up artist) and butterflies (they were her favorite). Glitter also welcome. Sat June 11th, 2-4pm. LGBT Center, Main Lobby Entrance at the foot of the Sylvester Memorial Staircase.

Lesbian/Gay Contra Dance @ Women's Bldg.

Last dance of the season, with Lynn Ackerson calling to the live music of 3 O'Clock Shadow. Contra is a spirited, friendly folk dance that's easy to learn, and no partner, special attire or experience are required. Beginners welcome. \$10 (or pay what you can). 8-10:30pm (doors open 7:45pm). The Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. (btwn Guerrero & Valencia). Info: www.lcdf.org/sl

Patti LaBelle @ Black & White Ball

Entertainment, a light show, event décor, opening ceremony and parade mark SF Symphony's Black and White Ball. Live music by Patti LaBelle, Train, Minnie Driver, Violent Femmes, The Village People, Los Mocuos, Styxie & The Pimp Jones Luv Orchestra, Steve Lucky & The Rhumba Bums, The Johnny Nocturne Band, Realistic Orchestra, The Motet, Red Meat, Chorn Johnson, Contemporary Jazz Orchestra, Natasha Miller, Charlie Hunter Trio, Tom Jonesing, Amazing Embarrassonic, Zoo Station, and the SF Symphony. \$200 gen'l adm (\$160 ages 21-30). 8pm-1am. SF Civic Center. Tix/info: 415-864-6000; www.sfsymphony.org; www.bwball.org

Sun 12

Bow Wow Wow/Pansy Division @ San Jose Pride

On Sun., June 12 beginning at 11am celebrants will gather along Market Street in Downtown San Jose to cheer members of the community participating in the 30th Annual Gay Pride Parade. After the Parade they will join over 12,000 people who are expected for the Gay Pride Festival running from 11am-7pm. Featuring entertainment on the Main Stage, a Latino Cultural and Dance Area, the Country Western Dance Area, a Senior Grove, a Family Carnival and the popular Community Dance Tent. Main Stage Headliners: **Bow Wow Wow** (music ranges from simple, goofy, non-sensical tunes to complex, crisp pop masterpieces, a pastiche of Latin and African beats, 50's rock-n-roll, and Spaghetti Western soundtracks), **Jody Watley**, and **Lane McCray of La Bouche**. Special Guest: Comedian **Marga Gomez**. Plus: **ProLatino Aztec Dancers**, **Lisa Dewey** and the **Lotus Life**, **Pansy Division** and **The Cheeseballs**. Discovery Meadow in Downtown San Jose. Info: 408.278.5563; www.sjgaypride.org.

Haight Street Fair

The 28th Annual Haight Street Fair, showcasing music, arts, crafts, food and our fair city's indigenous counterculture, stretches from Stanyan Street/Golden Gate Park to Masonic Street. The usual (and unusual) booths of arts, crafts & food. Live music on the MASONIC STAGE: **Angst**; **Baldred & The Raggamuffin Crew**; **Death Valley High**; **Funeral Party**; **Slottmachine**; **Switchback**. DJs: **Felix the Dog**; **Lexus**; **Nader**; **Qzen**; **Rascue**; **Ted Shread**; **4Real**. STANYAN STAGE: **Waterfall & Friends**; **Galaxy Chamber**; **The Bridge**; **Jeffrey Halford**; **Corinne**; **Swoon**; **Jane Genet & the Tacky Snappers**; **Transcendental Hayride**; **The Kehoe Nation**. Free. 11am-6pm. www.haightstreetfair.org.

"The Gamble of Love"

@ SF Opera Summer Fest
"The Gamble of Love" — Summer Festival at San Francisco Opera (June 12 — July 10). Come to SF Opera to experience three masterpieces of opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Georges Bizet and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The production of The Queen of Spades (opening June 12) is set in the glamorous world of St. Petersburg, a city that, in its day, was characterized by hysterical greed. In Così fan tutte (opening June 14), the action is moved to a casino in Monte Carlo during the outbreak of WWI. Two young men agree to a wager. In the midst of comedic chaos, they don't suspect it will be the gamble of their lives. The Pearl Fishers (opening June 24) is filled with magic sets of a fantasy island far, far away; two men swear eternal friendship; trouble starts when they both fall in love with the same woman. Tix/info: Opera Box Office, 301 Van Ness Ave.; 415-864-3330; sfopera.com

Mon 13

Coco Lopez/QComedy @ SF LGBT Center

QComedy presents Monday Night Gay Comedy, hosted by Coco Lopez, aka Ray Ferrer, a native of New York who may very well be the first gay Cuban Irish comedian. With: **Betsy Saltkind**, **Dolores Trevino**, **Marilyn Pittman**, **Amma**, **Mark Rubinitz**, **Mike Camarote**, **Justin Scott**, and featuring **Bridget Schwartz**. Reception is at 7:30 pm and the show starts at 8 pm. Sliding Scale \$8-\$15 cash, no one turned away. LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market St. at Octavia. Info: 415-541-5610; www.QComedy.com

Tue 14

Challenging Racism @ SF LGBT Center

"Challenging Racism in a Multiracial Family," a public discussion about confronting racism, supporting identity, and our multiracial families' sense of place in the LGBT family community. This discussion will include questions and conversation surrounding the dynamics of race, class and privilege in the family. Co-presented by: **Joemy K. Ito-Gates**, **Fusion & Adriane E. Gamble**, **Swirl, Inc.** Free. Tue., June 14, 6:30-8:00pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia. To register, call Our Family Coalition at (415) 981-1960.

Trash Talkin' @ SF LGBT Center

Dirty Ink Writers Collective reading featuring **Naomi Azriel**, **Jen Collins**, **Firecatcher**, **Dorian Katz** and **Renée Rivera** coming together around a passion of language, voice and indelicate sex. 7:30pm. SF LGBT Center, Ceremonial Room. Info: 415-864-4124; queerculturalcenter.org

Pink Floyd's The Wall @ Trannysnack

Conceptual Performance: Goth-damaged queen **Vinsantos** and birthday girl **Heklina** invite you to experience a special Trannysnack interpretation of Pink Floyd's The Wall! With DJ Derek on the decks, and



Shayna Dunkleman plays jalatarang, rice bowls tuned with different levels of water, as part of gay composer Henry Cowell's *Madras* Symphony performed by the San Francisco Composers Chamber Orchestra at Old First Church. See Friday.

MISS Chocolate at the door. \$7 cover. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

Queer Open Mic

@ Three Dollar Bill Café

Cindy Emch hosts the popular Queer Open Mic. \$1-\$5. Sign-up 7:30; show at 8pm. Three Dollar Bill Café, SF LGBT Community Center. Info: three-dollar-bill.com

Wed 15

Watch Me Shine

@ Michael's Octavia Lounge

Benefit preview performance: Michael's Octavia Lounge presents the premiere of *Watch Me Shine*, a new original musical revue celebrating the history of the gay and lesbian experience. Book & lyrics by Adam Sandel. Music by Richard Link. It's an irreverent journey through 80 years of gay history and social evolution. Tonight's preview is a benefit for the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation. \$30 (\$25 tax deductible) + \$10 food or drink minimum. 8pm. Opening night gala is Fri., June 17. Show runs thru June 25. Michael's Octavia Lounge, 1772 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix: 800-595-4TIX (4849); www.watchmешine-the-musical.com; www.tix.com

Smack Dab @ Magnet

"Smack Dab," open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-Bob Roberts. Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany. This month Kirk's out of town, so guest host will be Cindy Emch. Featured reader: **Joel Barraquiel Tan**, a writer and an activist in the fight against HIV/AIDS since 1988. He has published fiction, essays and poems in both popular and academic anthologies, including *Asian American Sexualities* and *On a Bed of Rice: Asian American Erotica*. Joel is the editor of the anthologies *Queer PAP* Porn and *Best Gay Asian Erotica*, and is the author of the poetry collection *Monster*. Free. All ages and genders welcomed and adored. Wed., June 15, 7:30 Sign-Up, show starts at 8pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood). Info: www.magnetsf.org

Ruby's Pride Exhibition @ Ruby's Clay Studio & Gallery

"Ruby's Celebrates Pride 2005" This juried show will feature eight members of the studio and all items in the show will be available for purchase. In addition, the entire Studio will be open so that individual members may show and sell their work. 10am-7pm daily. 552A Noe St. (btwn 18th & 19th).

Joel Schumacher @ Castro Theater

"An Evening with Joel Schumacher", in which the director of *Elmo's Fire*, *Flatliners*, *Falling Down*, *The Client*, *Batman Forever*, and *Phone Booth* (among others) will be the featured guest. Proceeds support Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro. Screening of *Flawless* (7pm), starring **Robert DeNiro**, and *The Lost Boys* (10pm), a modern vampire cult classic. In between the films, Schumacher — one of a handful of openly gay directors in Hollywood — will be interviewed onstage by **Frank DeCaro**, former host of "Out at the Movies" on Comedy Central's Daily Show. \$10 (\$8 seniors/children) at the box office and TicketWeb. 429 Castro St. Info: www.theastrotheatre.com

Thu 16

Larry, Hall and Jack @ Catalyst Cocktails

Musical tricksters **Larry, Hall and Jack** (Larry-bob Roberts on piano; **Hall Goff** on trombone, and **Jack Curtis Dubowsky** on vocals) play unoriginal music which they butcher in amusing ways. Their repertoire includes offbeat pop songs from throughout the 20th century. Two sets, at 6:30 & 7:30pm on Thu., June 16. Free admission. 21+ w/d. full dinner menu as well as great fresh fruit drinks with and without alcohol. Catalyst Cocktails, 312 Harriet St., near 6th and Bryant. Info: www.destinytunes.com/hlj

Fresh Meat 2005

@ ODC Theater

Fresh Meat 2005, the 4th Annual Transgender + Queer Performance Festival, a high-energy gathering of talented artists. Curated by Artistic Director **Sean Dorsey**. Featuring: **Miguel Chernus-Goldstein**, **Ryka Aoki de la Cruz**, **Sean Dorsey** and **Mair Culbreth**, **Harlem Shake Burlesque**, **Lipstick Conspiracy**, **Thea Hillman** and **Johnnie Pratt**, **Jaycob Perez** and **Katastrope**, **Turner Schofield**, **Sile "Luster"** **Singleton**, **Sister of the Underground**, **The TransAMS Barbershop Quartet**, **Shawna Virago** and more. The Gala Opening Night Reception (post-performance, June 16) also celebrates the opening of *Fresh Meat* in the Gallery, a month-long transgender visual art exhibition presented in ODC's Gallery. The exhibition is open and free to all Wed.-Sat., 2pm-5pm and at performances of *Fresh Meat* 2005. *Fresh Meat 2005* is a featured presentation of the 7th Annual National Queer Arts Festival and is part of Gay Pride Month. \$15. June 16 & 17 at 8pm; June 18 at 7:30 & 9:30pm. 3153 17th St. Info: freshmeatproductions.org

Queer Comics "Out in the Bay" @ KALW 91.7 FM

Veteran comic **Marilyn Pittman** talks gay comedy with two of the four young queer comedians she's performing with on June 25th at "Stand Up For Pride." They'll cover the history of gay comedy in San Francisco and the city's re-emerging comedy scene with gay and lesbian comics at the forefront. Tune in 7:30 p.m., KALW 91.7 FM and streaming live on-line at kalw.org. FREE if you have a radio or a computer! *("Stand Up For Pride" is at 8 & 10pm on the 25th at The LGBT Center's Rainbow Room, 1800 Market @ Octavia. For tickets: cityboxoffice.com or 415-392-4400 through Friday June 24). Info: kalw.org

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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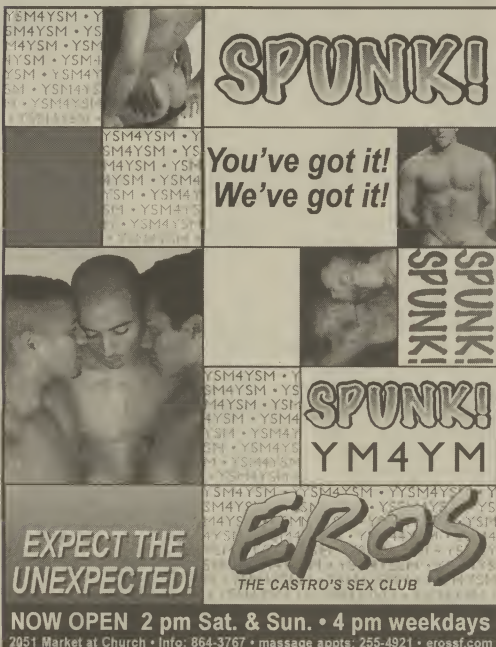
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Egdes excels

IML 2005 Part II - The Dish

by Mister Marcus

IML 2005 is history. The winner, Michael Egdes, is settling down in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with his two soul mates and setting his agenda for the coming year with the title, but it wasn't as smooth as could be expected.

Barely 48 hours after winning the title, an errant, unnamed individual with an obvious demented axe to grind posted inflammatory, false and unfounded allegations and accusations on our new IML, in the Leather Titleholders Page, a service ostensibly in existence to guide leather people with titles (and others) to navigate through their title year(s) and beyond.

A storm of protests ensued with page after page of outrage and indignation over the postings. The matter was worsened when the alleged writer claimed to have a title that is non-existent according to Google and other search engines.

The outrage subsided after Mr. Egdes, in response, stated the agenda he hopes to follow, his view on the use of drugs and his support of AIDS prevention at all levels. It's not easy being a titleholder, but Michael Egdes handled it diplomatically and surges forward with a promising year with the title. Bravo!

There were all sorts of things going on in or near the host hotel at IML 2005. Let's go there by sections.

The Lobby

Certainly a panoramic view of goings and comings. In one corner, leathermen were heatedly condemning and praising the Chicago Hellfire Club's ban on allowing transgendered people to attend their annual Inferno weekend. Prominent "players", members, associates and/or guests have strong opinions on this subject. Whether this controversy will ever be settled to everyone's satisfaction is open to conjecture.

The newly elongated bar overlooking the whole lobby was jam-packed from Thursday to Monday. It was no wonder security bank trucks were hauling out bags of cash several times each day. Mr. New York Eagle 2004, Brian Kent, had everyone staring in amazement at his capacity to down Red Bulls with Vodka! At another table, Mindy Chateaufort of Washington, D.C. and Faye Foltz of Long Beach, California, were "biling and cooing" while



Three IMLs at the press conference during IML 2005 weekend (from left): Jason Hendrix, IML 2004; Michael Egdes, IML 2005; and John Pental, IML 2003.

the new Ms. Philadelphia Leather, Dawn Marie, was looking sad because her other half, Nick, didn't attend IML and Nick refused to answer phone calls.

At another table two women (The First Lady of Leather Mary Elizabeth Boyd and Leather Mama Sandy Reinhardt) were holding court as their fans smothered them with affectionate kisses and hugs. Mama and some members of her family later staged a presentation of \$1,000 to Leather Archives & Museum (LA&M) chief Rick

Storer, proceeds from the sale of the Mama's Family CD.

One perk of being a volunteer for IML and especially the Contestant Coordinator guys who get face-to-face contact with the contestants. Would it be implausible to surmise that Mr. Missouri Leather 2004 Ron Walters is "connected" to Mr. Leather Europe 2005 Roberto Menichetti? I am sure there were plenty of other clandestine pairings as usual. One burning question still unanswered: What happened to Mr. Montreal Leather Mark Legault? Inquiring minds need/want to know! Marriages? Divorces? Yes.

A big crowd gathered for the memorial service for the late Robert Davolt. Many leather personalities expounded on their respect and admiration of another icon. It was a fitting memorial to a truly dedicated leather man.

The Parties

There were scores of "public" parties and hordes of "private" parties on and off the hotel premises. The biggest were the Onyx Dance, the Toronto Maple Leaf, and Don't Mess With Texas. While not a party, per se, the Onyx gathering for people of color did not garner a big crowd, but it was

deemed a success by all concerned. Yes, I am a person of color and it was a pleasure being on the panel.

The Hunky Emcee: Brad Balof

For reasons unknown for all concerned, the identity of the MC for IML 2005 was shrouded in "secrecy"; all offered "he is a 'newbie that nobody knows and we think you'll be pleased.' It turns out that it was a triumphant coup for IML to introduce Brad Balof, a hunky 24-year old Chicago man who has more moxie than Donald Duck and the Red Runner combined.

Aside from porn legend Al Parker onstage as the MC way back when, this was the most skin ever displayed by a master of ceremonies. While Brad declined posing nude for IML's photographer, Ron Volanti, he generated a plethora of flash bulbs when he "dropped trou" during the contest. A true delight and hopefully, he'll be back next year. Besides, he's a NICE GUY!

The works

OOPS! On a scale of 1 to 10, the IML opening ceremony, the Pecs & Personality and the contest itself score a resounding 9+ rating. I was curious why the German leather contingent were guffawing all over the place. After all, a glitch caused their national anthem to be played THREE times — but guess what? It was the anthem for the defunct East Germany! Not everyone knew that, but the German contingent was caught off-guard and "forgave" all concerned.

And let me correct an omission from last week's column. There were NINE (not eight) bootblack contestants and my apologies to the bootblack from Toronto, "Cub", for this oversight. And believe it or not, someone from

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, June 10-12

East Canada Leather Sir/boy competition at the Black Eagle in Toronto. Also, Mr. Edmonton Leather contest. For info: svryen@shaw.ca.

Saturday, June 11

SOMA Bare Chest Calendar Media Circus at the Eagle Tavern from 1600 to 2000. Who will be named for the 2006 front and back covers?

Wednesday, June 15

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules; if not, call 777-HEAD.

Friday, June 17

Exiles of SF present "Mackenzie" who speaks on

"Ask Not What your Dominant Can Do For You" at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930. Program from 2000 to 2200.

Weekend, June 17-19

In New York City, Leather Pride Night big auction on Friday and Folsom Street East on Sunday. Also SW Leather Sir/boy competition in Phoenix. Locally, it's the 10th Annual Blues Festival on Johnson's Beach up at the Russian River.

Saturday, June 18

"Mama's Whipping Post" contest at the Bolt Bar in Sacramento from 2200 to 2400. For info: sac1thrwolf@sbcglobal.net

Well-abused youth

S&M boy-men put through paces

by John F. Karr

Well, bite my ass, it's time for the yearly porno sale. That's the one in the funky garage in the Mission that's so small you're likely to get your ass bitten in the rush for super-cheap goods. The benefit for The San Francisco Prime Timers (formerly G40+) is on Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. Videos are \$3, DVDs only \$5, and all varieties of printed material and mags are \$1. There are toys, too, and even 8mm — remember film? It's all at 3507-23rd Street, between Valencia and Guerrero. If you have stuff to donate, or questions, call Arthur at (415) 648-8678.

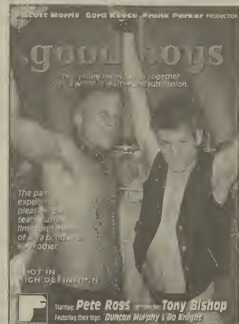
Thrills, not frills

Pete Ross and Tony Bishop are a surprising pair of boy/men. These pups — Ross a fairly buff and honey-skinned blonde, and Bishop a slender, pale-skinned and gawky-haired brunet with a scraggly, Ethan Hawke-like goatee — deliver an S&M-



Karnal Knowledge

based leather sexuality that's surprising not only for its advanced development in lads so young, but by their playfulness while they're at it. Not for them the stern and stolid façade of butch presented by older Masters and their slaves; these tykes are romantic, frisky and yippy. Little S&M cocker spaniels, tails a-waggin'. Their precociously well-seasoned sexuality is born out by appearance as well as activity — in Ross' case, piercings that seem the mark of one years further down the road (like the bar straight through his — yike! — dickhead); in Bishop's case, a tattooed cock (his astrological sign, right on the top). I first noticed them in a couple of Ragging Stallion releases, then in single movies from Titan (Bishop) and Falcon (Ross). Research revealed they were actually broken in at Factory Videos. This is a company I enjoy. The purposefully low-tech, no-frills approach at Factory frequently allows a raunchiness that's less codified, less performance art than that of more mainstream companies. Best of



all, their oral-cum shot policy — the performers can eat it if they wanna — satisfies a deep longing for the sacramental juices.

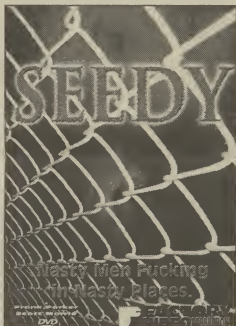
In *Good Boys*, Ross and Bishop quite engagingly receive an hour-long, realistic SM session that's patiently delivered by the stunningly huge and masculine daddy Duncan Murphy. Ross is the butt boy, taking dildo, electric butt-plug and a strenuous fucking while his back is lashed so

hard he cries. "Getting 'dorphed up there, aren't ya?" daddy Duncan drolls rhetorically. Bishop is the pain collector, receiving advanced ball torture, a succession of increasingly larger cock sounds, and dripping candle wax. And, lordy, the boys are so cute playing together. They're a real twosome in enduring the travails dished out by their tutor, kissing and sucking and teasing together to provide diversion as pain is applied. This interplay leads to sharp and succulently scarfed-down orgasms. Afterwards, reliably fierce Bo Knight shows up. He's less into punishing the boys than being serviced by them, and a brief but boisterous threeway ensues.

Boy Sweat is more conventional. There's no kink, just an acceptably appealing and straightforward suck'n'fuck for some decent-looking guys. Of the four different couples, only two take cum orally. Bishop's not in this one, his place taken in Ross' arms by the engagingly boyish Billy Bowers, who pisses cum like he was taking a leak. Matt Nelson's cock is also



worth notice. It's a smooth and well-proportioned whopper, upon which young Anthony sinks down suavely in a nicely choreographed fuck. Braced by a large beachball, he rolls fore and aft, sliding quite visibly up and down Matt's long, long shaft. It's the sort of thing that makes you say, It shoulda been me! Then, in an unexpected flip-flop, the young squirt tops Matt well enough to make the dude's eyes roll back in his head. Matt encores immediately with Rob Woody, whose cock matches Matt's in length, and adds a foreskin.



Shop hurl

Ross isn't in *Seedy*, but Mr. Bishop is seen in its best sequence. Its three half-hour scenes take place in a local sex club and its attendant leather shop. None are really combustible, but if you like the guys, rewarding enough, I guess. I was curious to see the on-screen debut of veteran videographer Leif Gobo (you know I wanna see everyone's dick at least once). He does okay. He can go

page 53 ►

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Chicago finally won a big one: Arthur "Boo Boo" Funn is the IML Bootblack 2005.

Oh there's more. Much more. But suffice it to say that a good time was had by all and I hope you're planning to attend IML 28 next year!

On the home front: 'Original Pride'

In view of the fact that Mr. San Francisco Leather Dodger Allen was the first runner-up at IML 2005, a celebration will take place at the Powerhouse Bar on Friday, June 10th from 2200 to 2400. And in answer to the question: "When will the new IML 2005 visit San Francisco?" Well, has anyone thought of inviting him? As soon as he settles into his title year, I am sure he'll include our city on his list of visits.



Sandy "Mama" Reinhard and part of her extensive family present a check for \$1,000 to LA&M director Rick Storer from sales of "Mama's Family CD" during IML 2005 weekend in Chicago.

Frameline, the people who bring us the SF International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival will be showing "Original Pride", the documentary by Scott Bloom (president of the Satyr MC in L.A.) on Tuesday, June 21, 8:00 p.m. at the

Roxie Theatre and again on Wednesday, June 22 at the Castro at 11:30 a.m. Don't miss this stunning look at leather history!

That's it for this week. Keep living, laughing, loving and "leather-ing". You deserve to be proud. ▼

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A tale of three Gingers

Ginger's Trois is San Francisco's last Financial District gay bar

by Mike Sher and Mark des Jardins

The story of Ginger's Trois, 246 Kearny, is really a tale of three Gingers. Changing neighborhoods and changing times have left Ginger's Trois San Francisco's last Financial District gay bar.

The original Ginger's was on Mason a little above Eddy. It opened in 1978. The neighborhood was bawdy and rowdy, jumping with gay bars. Every night was a new adventure. This column's Mike's favorite place, The Trapp, was there, a great place for an absolutely mixed crowd to gather for an afterwork drink. There was the Blue and Gold. An acquaintance of Mike's got into a fight in their men's room with a sailor, stabbed him and dragged him down Eddy, leaving a trail of blood. He was arrested and did time. There were places now gone, like the Railway Express, and a place still around, Aunt Charlie's, previously covered in this series.



In The Bars

The neighborhood changed and gentrified, and Ginger's lost its least. The site is now a hotel. Ginger's Two opened on Sixth a bit South of Market, another rough neighborhood. For a time, it was both a bar and a restaurant. Mike remembers visiting the place as a restaurant writer, and seeing

a sign on each table: "Welcome to the Wine Country." This phrase eventually got picked up by Herb Caen.

The area kept declining, and Don Rogers decided to open Ginger's Trois in 1991. It's outlasted Sutter's Mill, the primary business bar of its time, and is now a favorite of Financial District types and their admirers.

Just ask manager Mason Bowling, a jovial ex-Kentuckian. He's been helping owner Don Rogers since 1978. Rogers, still an active 79, comes by every so often to inspect, but it's Mason's show. He began bartending in Texas, started work at SoMa's fondly remembered Round Up bar in 1973, and joined Don five years later.

The bar takes its name from



Cocktail hour at the bar of Ginger's Trois: regulars say the Financial District bar is like a scene from *Cheers*.

Ginger Rogers, famed as Fred Astaire's backward-dancing costar. (The fact that Don has the same last name may also have some-

thing to do with it.) It's an intimate, two-level space, with a small smoking area out in front, on Kearny. Posters of Rogers and Astaire, including one for the movie *Swing Time*, are on the back wall. In front is a giant neon bicycle. Mason is putting up umbrellas for Gay Pride Month above the bar. He recalls how the Sutter's Mill crowd used to come to Ginger's after closing, way back when.

There's a sign next to the juke CD from Le Boeuf, a steakhouse Don owned, famous for selling steaks by the ounce. The price of the steak was the price of your dinner.

Like the music on the CD, the crowd is very eclectic, and certainly not business old-fogy types, notes Mason. The average age is 25-40, and some straights like to come in, too. Mason's other, Pat Fitzgerald, works behind the bar.

The club sponsors the Coasters in the same softball league as

Berkeley's White Horse Inn. It is a proud member of Every Penny Counts, an AIDS fundraising group, and gives to other charities.

Following Financial District custom, the bar closes for major holidays. Christmas decorations were so good, however, that they were featured in last year's *B.A.R.* St. Pat's, there's plenty to eat. There's no happy hour, but Mason tries to keep prices reasonable.

So come down to what Mason calls "the biggest little secret in the Financial District," Ginger's Trois. You can sip a Ketel One, its most popular beverage, and think about how, like most of us, Ginger's is a survivor. ▼

Ginger's Trois, 246 Kearny, San Francisco. (415) 989-0282. Open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Mon. to Thur.; to 11 p.m., Fri.; 2 p.m.-10 p.m., Sat. Closed Sun.

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Mason Bowling is Ginger's bar manager and an ex-Kentuckian.

BOOKS

Irish melody

by Robert Julian

A Son Called Gabriel by Damian McNicholl; CDS Press, \$14.95

The world of Northern Ireland has always been something of a mystery for those who live this side of the pond. The thought that contemporary Protestants and Catholics would bomb and murder each other is a bit of a stretch for most Americans. But this is the backdrop for Damian McNicholl's 2004 gay coming-of-age novel *A Boy Called Gabriel*, now released in trade paperback.

Most of the action takes place in the 1970s, when Northern Ireland was a war-torn battlefield. Young Gabriel is a working class Catholic boy with three younger siblings. Although his emerging sexuality is not yet fully defined, he senses his double-minority status early in life; he is not only Catholic in a Protestant country, but gay in a straight world. Attending parochial schools, he is subjected to the special torments reserved for anyone who is different — especially those who do not precisely conform to the narrow gender-role stereotypes of his small town. And as he passes from elementary school to the end of



high school, he must not only sort out his sexuality, but resolve a family mystery regarding his Uncle Brendan.

McNicholl succeeds in creating Gabriel's insular world with his sensitive and restrained prose. He is particularly effective in describing the intense sexual passion of an adolescent who cannot resist his same-sex desires, but must also perform acts of contrition every time he indulges them. *A Son Called Gabriel* does not break new ground, but it is an engrossing portrait of a time and place, and a coming out process that is universal. ▼

Bette Davis

◀ page 39

flings with various youthful admirers, who rave about her ageless charms and are surprised that she has a fully-grown daughter. Then Fanny is felled by typhoid fever, which, among other horrors, leaves her bald. When a beau calls, he is shocked when one of her fake curls falls to the floor. No longer the beauty, Fanny is lonely and repentant, but her hubby returns, now blind. He therefore remembers her as she was before disease took its toll. This was also a huge hit, but today is slow, not campy enough, and not even Davis can redeem it. Still, she got another Oscar nod, losing to Ingrid Bergman in *Gaslight*.

Davis' career declined in the second half of the '40s, and at the end of the decade, Warners fired her. Her success following '50's *All About Eve* was short-lived, and the '50s saw her in fewer movies, none

of which were big hits. But Twentieth Century Fox made her *The Star* ('52), about a once-celebrated film queen desperate to regain fame. "They can't put me out to pasture. Why, I'm an institution. Girls talked like me, imitated my make-up, my hair. I was a star. I am a star!" Natalie Wood plays her daughter, and Sterling Hayden is the man who wants her to give up the movies for a normal life. Davis admitted that she modeled her character's obsession with glamour on Joan Crawford. In one scene, when she's auditioning for a role, Davis imitates Crawford's famous "Bless you" to the crew. The picture wasn't a hit, but Davis' overwrought performance is hugely entertaining, and she got her ninth Oscar nomination, losing to Shirley Booth in *Come Back, Little Sheba*, a role Davis had desperately wanted. As for Crawford, she insisted that Davis wasn't playing her. "It couldn't possibly be me. Bette looked so old, and so dreadfully overweight." ▼

S&M boy-men

◀ page 51

back behind the camera now. A bear, a baldy and their buddy invest all they've got in a threesome, but they're not paying any dividends standing up in the cramped aisle of the leather shop. Boiling baby Bishop has the movie's hottest partner in hefty-cocked, nicely-inked Randy Boyd. They do it well, but I'd like a higher degree of partnering — i.e., it's energetic with good visual, but not much chemistry.

Lust Resort is a Factory Video hole-in-one, a big-dicked, butt-cramming, cum-eating jamboree. It's also a Factory field trip, shot on location at Fort Lauderdale's Inn Leather resort. It doesn't take much to turn on the pig in Pete Ross, but lots of Florida sunshine and warmth, plus a poolside sling, help make this a Ross *tour de force*. He gets mightily cleaved by the fabulously broad cock of beam-

ingly happy Jake Havoc (you know just how effective it is when a pig like Ross moans, "God, it's such a big dick!"), passed back and forth between Havoc and buff baldy Yanko in a wild fuckathon, and gobbles meat in a suckathon that adds heavy-hung Stephen Richards to the mix. Each and every one of the movie's bounteous bazookas blasts its cum-bonus between blessed blow-jump lips. Like manna in the desert. It's almost a relief when the movie's finale eases up a bit for a nighttime coda in which Richards bashes his big bruiser cock into various orifices of meaty-nippled, hairy-chested muscle daddy Jackson Reid. I guess the best thing I can say about this hearty, nasty romp is that while I usually take notes while watching movies, I don't have any for *Lust Resort*. I continually found something else beside a pen in my hand. You know what they always say. The penis mightier. Lotsa pics at www.Factoryvideos.com. ▼

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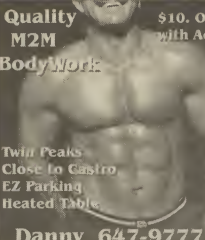


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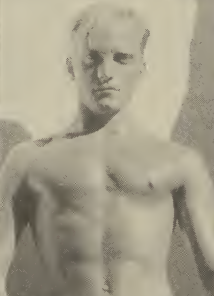


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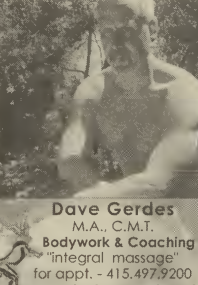
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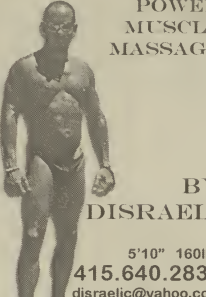
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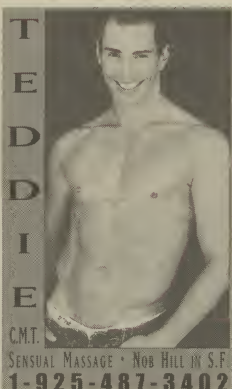
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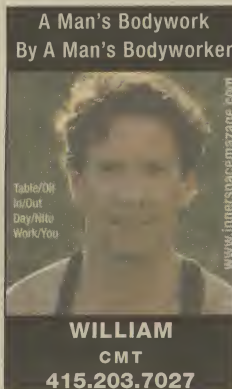
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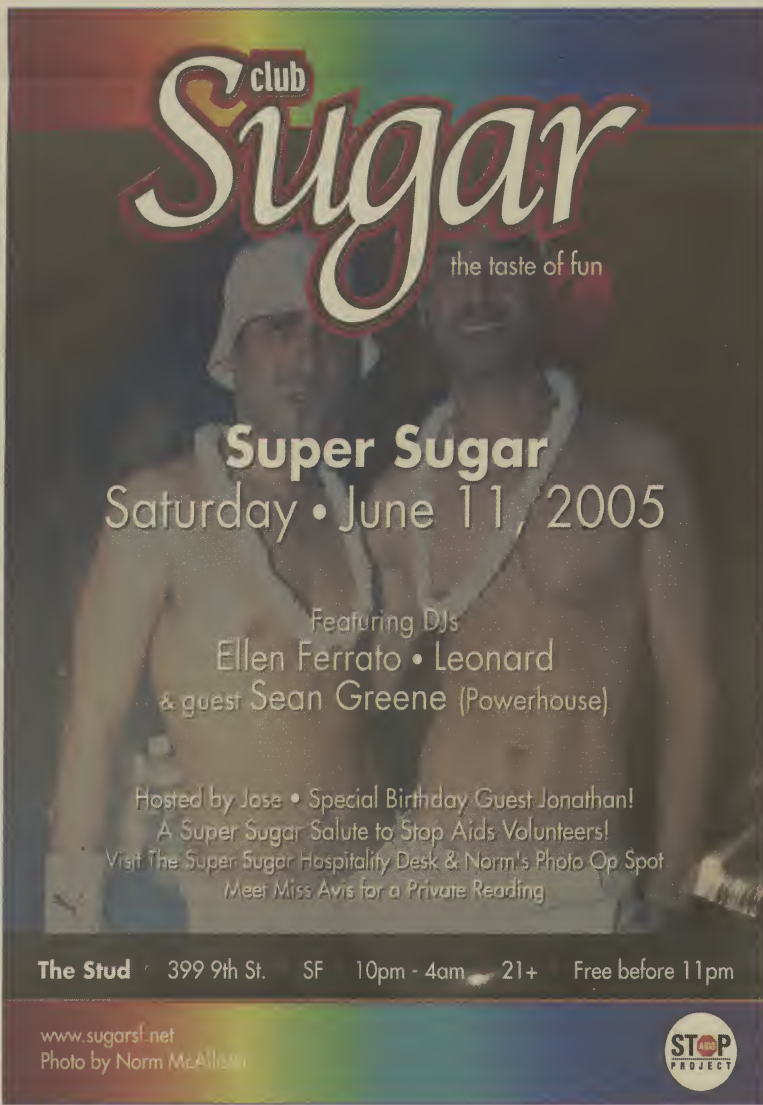
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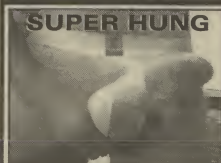
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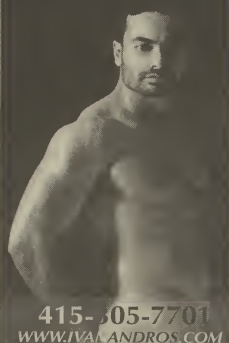
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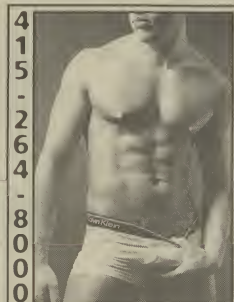
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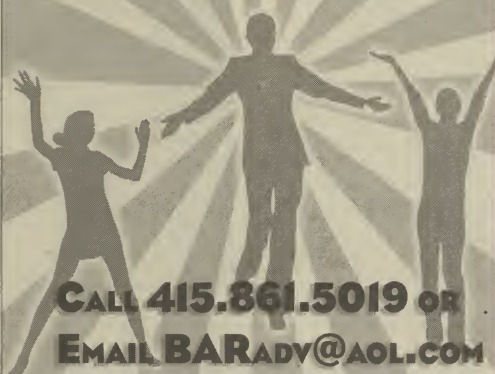
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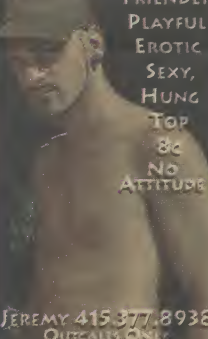
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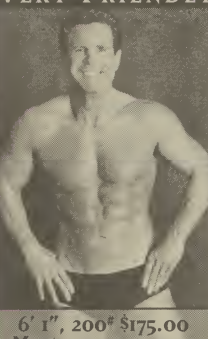
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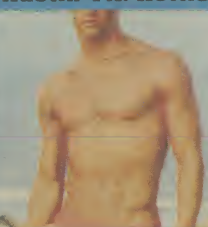
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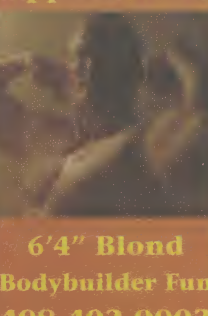
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You Adorable Cute Bartender On Tues. Nights, With 5 O'clock Shadow. You Are Beautiful. I'm Too Shy To Say Hello. Would like To Take You To Dinner. I'm Cute Italian. ☎ 71561

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Wed, Noon You: On Your Cell Br/Br Speaking Portuguese Me: Cowboy Hat, Wht Pants, Gotee, Too Shy To Say Hi. Let's Do Coffee - Bob ☎ 71555

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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

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MEN
PUBLIC
PLACES**

bucknakedinpublic.com

WANT TO GET OFF?
WWW.MECCAMEN.COM
WWW.XCOMEDIA.COM

THE BIGGEST DICKS, THE HOTTEST GUYS

Hot Guys Taking And Gagging On The Biggest Fattest Cocks! Must See!
www.maxxxcock.com And
www.maxxxsize.com \$5 Brochure
RPJ PO Box 931754 L.A., CA
90093 310.968-6299 rpj510@hotmail.com

REAL

All ads have photos and are pre-screened. Live help available 7 days a week.

HUGE

Over 300,000 members and five languages worldwide.

LOCAL

At least 5,500 men online at all times!

now

Available in 58 cities. Find men wherever you are!

m4m-usa.com

BAY AREA REPORTER

PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate Type Style Here ▼

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼ BOLD Stops Here ▼ CAPS Stop Here ▼ Regular Stops Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.
Payment must accompany ad.
No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019.
Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular 6.00
All subsequent lines 4.00
CAPS double price
BOLD double price
X-BOLD triple price

PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash
☐ Personal Check
☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge on Visa and MasterCard.

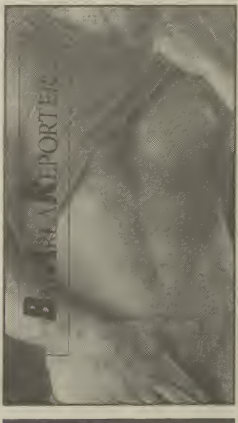
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number _____
3-Digit Security Code _____ Expiration Date _____
Signature _____
Name _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Number of Issues _____ Classification _____ Amount Enclosed _____

MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:
BAY AREA REPORTER
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144



A black and white photograph of two men in silhouette, facing each other closely on a bed. They are positioned in the center of the frame, with their heads tilted slightly towards each other. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light source, possibly a window, creating a romantic atmosphere. The men are lying on a bed covered with a patterned blanket, which appears to be an American flag. The overall mood is intimate and tender.

COME TOGETHER

GAY.COM